

The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB



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The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

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Vol. XII

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CONTENTS

	Page
Christmas Bird Count, 1947— <i>Archie D. Shaftesbury</i>	1
News of Local Clubs	11
State Bird Club Enjoys Field Trip to Coastal Wildlife Refuges— <i>Robert L. Wolff</i>	12
Field Notes and News	14
Bachman's Sparrow—A Portrait— <i>B. Rhett Chamberlain</i>	19
With the Editor	20
Important Notices	Inside Back Cover
Local Clubs and Their Officers	Outside Back Cover

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Christmas Bird Count, 1947

ARCHIE D. SHAFTESBURY, Greensboro, N. C.

We received from members of the North Carolina Bird Club Christmas counts from 16 localities in North and South Carolina and Tennessee, including Asheville, Chapel Hill, Charleston (South Carolina), Charlotte, Great Smoky Mountains National Park (Tennessee), Greensboro, Lenoir, Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge (Hyde County, N. C.), Mount Olive, Pea Island and Oregon Inlet (Dare County, N. C.), Raleigh, Spartanburg (South Carolina), Warsaw, Wilmington, Windom, and Winston-Salem. The sixteen localities, with 190 observers, reported 176 different species and sub-species, and counted or estimated a total of approximately 100,224 birds.

Wilmington, which reported 94 species in the 1946 Christmas count, led the North Carolina counts again with the record number of 115 species, which puts them among the really high counts for the nation. (In the 1946 Christmas counts reported to the National Audubon Society, only 16 localities in the United States listed 100 or more species.) Charleston, South Carolina, sending us their report for the first time this year, tops all of our 16 lists, reporting a total of 136 species, slightly less than their list of 144 species which placed Charleston second in the nation a year ago. Ten of the sixteen localities reporting to *The Chat* this year list 50 species or more, which is certainly a good record.

Some of the submitted records which appear to hold unusual interest are: White-eyed Vireo, at Mount Olive (carefully checked by Bob Holmes III); Ovenbird, at Raleigh (reported heard and seen); Baltimore Oriole, at Spartanburg, South Carolina (adult male examined at close range by three observers); White-winged Crossbill, at Charleston, South Carolina, (the bird was "squeaked" down for closer observation—first report for South Carolina, but placed in the hypothetical list for that state, since the specimen was not taken); and Eastern Grasshopper Sparrow, taken at Raleigh by T. L. Quay. Quay's method—taking the specimen—would certainly give desired authentication to the record of a Wood Pewee, reported by one observer at Asheville.

Winter records of American Egrets, first recorded along our coast during the past few years, show increasing numbers. Little Blue and Louisiana Herons are also reported from coastal areas. A Green Heron is reported at Wilmington, and the Pea Island report lists 4 American Bitterns and 2 Avocets.

Among the erratic species for this area, Red-breasted Nuthatches are listed at only four localities, Wilmington (4), Raleigh (1), Greensboro

(12), and Great Smoky Mountains National Park (31); Pipits were reported from 7 localities, extending from Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Spartanburg, South Carolina, in the west, to Wilmington and Charleston, South Carolina, in the east; Purple Finches are reported from seven localities, all in small numbers (2 to 20), with the exception of Wilmington, which lists 52; Pine Siskins were reported from only 4 localities, Chapel Hill (2), Greensboro (15), Spartanburg, South Carolina (1), and Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee (2).

The relatively small numbers of Robins reported on twelve inland lists (two localities record none), with 717 Robins reported from Charleston, South Carolina, and 800 plus listed at Spartanburg, South Carolina, suggests that the Robins are finding more congenial weather farther south. The density of distribution of Myrtle Warblers at this season of the year, as suggested by these counts, is interesting. Myrtle Warblers are reported in numbers of from 3 to 12, from six inland localities; Raleigh, Lenoir, Windom, and Asheville list none; while counts from all the eastern localities, Pea Island, Mattamuskeet Refuge, Mount Olive, Warsaw, Wilmington, and Charleston, South Carolina, each lists from 200 to 500 Myrtle Warblers.

The counts at the Federal Refuges at Mattamuskeet and Pea Island indicate considerably larger numbers of Snow Geese and Canada Geese than were recorded in the 1946 Christmas count, but this may be due to earlier winter weather this year in the north. Black Duck and Pintail, the most abundant ducks on these refuges, are listed in larger numbers than last year. Other ducks seem to be fewer, both in kinds and in actual numbers of birds. Small numbers of Mallards are reported on nine of the lists, but Redheads, which were abundant years ago, are listed from but two localities, Chapel Hill (1), and Charleston, South Carolina (4).

ASHEVILLE, N. C. (Area covered this year was less than in the last two years, but its limits and general topography were the same. From Beaver Lake south to Rosscraggon, and from Dryman Mountain east to Bee Tree Road; open farmland 15 pct., town suburbs 35 pct., pine woodland 15 pct., deciduous woodland 10 pct., mixed woodland 10 pct., lake and stream banks 14 pct., marsh 1 pct.) Dec. 27--8:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Clear, sunny; temp. 48-27 degrees F.; wind from north, about 7 m.p.h.; ground partly covered with snow which fell Christmas day. For several weeks a noticeable scarcity of birds. Thirty-two observers; 69 hours; miles: on foot, 54; in cars, 94 (to reach desirable points). Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Pigeon Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Bob-white, 6; Barred Owl, 1; Kingfisher, 2; Flickers, 5; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 26; Phoebe, 5; Wood Pewee, 1 (Mrs. E. W.—Built in tree near house in summer); Blue Jay, 51; Crow, 60; Chickadee, 155; Tufted Titmouse, 136; White-breasted Nuthatch, 48; Brown Creeper, 2; House Wren, 1; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 35; Mockingbird, 3; Catbird, 2 (seen by L. J., a taxidermist); Brown Thrasher, 1;

Robin, 6; Hermit Thrush, 1; Bluebird, 64; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 34; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 8; Cedar Waxwing, 19; Starling, 184; Myrtle Warbler, 3; English Sparrow, 372; Meadowlark, 55; Purple Grackle, 3; Cardinal, 80; Goldfinch, 25; Towhee, 64; Junco, 182; Chipping Sparrow, 5; Field Sparrow, 43; White-throated Sparrow, 107; Song Sparrow, 71; Total, 46 species; 1880 individuals. Observers: *Walter S. Adams, Esther Bennett, Esther Bloxton, Elizabeth Collins, Margaret Decker, E. Annette Hinds (compiler), Bobby Hoch, Lonise Ingersoll, Leland J. Jones, Mrs. Reed Kitchin, Paul T. Knollman, Mrs. Lucinda Lacy, Arthur Lawrence, Harry Lytle, Eileen McCabe, Mrs. J. N. McCabe, Nicholas McCabe, Jr., Sheila McCabe, Clayton McCracken, Mrs. M. F. Meredith, Jack Mulvaney, Frank Rembert, R. H. Rembert, Mrs. Kenley Richbourg, Bobby Ruiz, Eleanor Shaffle, Louise Tamahill, Mrs. W. H. Thorn, Mrs. Eugene Ward, Mrs. Annabel Worrell, Mr. T. L. Young.*

CHAPEL HILL, N. C. (Same area as in last 18 years; oak-hickory woods 15 pct., pine woods 10 pct., lowland thickets and farmlands 55 pct., marsh and lake shores 20 pct.) Dec. 23—dawn to dusk; broken strato-cumulus becoming clear; wind W, 5-10 m.p.h.; temp. 31 to 58 degrees F. Three observers in 3 parties in A.M.; 2 observers in 2 parties in P.M. Total hours, 22 on foot; total miles, 20 on foot. Horned Grebe, 1; Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Great Blue Heron, 2; Mallard, 4; Black Duck, 56; Gadwall, 5; Redhead, 1; Ring-necked duck, 74; Buffle-head, 19; Ruddy duck, 5; Turkey Vulture, 66; Black Vulture, 18; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 3; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 7; Bob-white, 25; Coot, 15; Killdeer, 22; Wilson's Snipe, 1; Mourning Dove, 102; Barred Owl, 2; Flicker, 23; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 8; Red-headed Woodpecker, 6; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 6; Hairy Woodpecker, 9; Downy Woodpecker, 20; Phoebe, 13; Blue Jay, 49; Crow, 29; Carolina Chickadee, 24; Tufted Titmouse, 19; White-breasted Nuthatch, 8; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 20; Brown Creeper, 7; Winter Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 48; Mockingbird, 10; Brown Thrasher, 1; Robin, 76; Hermit Thrush, 34; Bluebird, 73; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 20; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 7; Am. Pipit, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 52; Shrike, 2; Starling, 9; Myrtle Warbler, 12; Pine Warbler, 1; English Sparrow, 12; Meadowlark, 117; Red-wing, 405; Rusty Blackbird, 41; Cardinal, 130; Purple Finch, 3; Pine Siskin, 2; Goldfinch, 32; Towhee, 23; Savannah Sparrow, 14; Bachman's Sparrow, 2 (seen at 20 yards and heard singing—P. R.); Junco, 130; Field Sparrow, 44; White-throated Sparrow, 441; Fox Sparrow, 16; Swamp Sparrow, 22; Song Sparrow, 166. Total, 69 species; 2637 individuals. Observers: *Joe Jones, Howard T. Odum, Phillips Russell.*

CHARLOTTE, N. C. (Three areas: One same as last five years, vicinity of Lucas estate, around headwaters of McAlpine Creek; one same as last year, pond two miles east of City just off of Albemarle highway; one new area, northeast of City, vicinity of Hayes Nursery and cemetery. Pine, gum, poplar woodlands 55 pct., cleared land 15 pct., cultivated nursery and open cemetery 20 pct., hedgerows and pond 10 pct.) Dec. 27—7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.; clear; wind 1-7 m.p.h.; temp. 29-53 degrees F. Eleven observers in three parties; total hours 12½ (11 on foot); total miles 40 (14 on foot, 26 by car). Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Bufflehead, 6; Turkey Vulture, 8; Black Vulture, 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Red shouldered Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 2; Bob-white, 15; Wilson's Snipe, 3; Flicker, 8; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 22; Crow, 80; Carolina Chickadee, 19; Tufted Titmouse, 2; Brown Creeper, 2; Carolina Wren, 10; Mockingbird, 19; Brown Thrasher, 4; Robin, 1; Hermit Thrush, 1; Bluebird, 25; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 4; Cedar Waxwing, 8; Shrike, 4; Starling, 120 (est.); Myrtle Warbler, 3; Pine Warbler, 2; Palm Warbler, 5 (see note); English Sparrow, 15; Meadowlark, 29; Cardinal, 15; Red-eyed Towhee, 7;

Savannah Sparrow, 15; Junco, 117 (est.); Field Sparrow, 13; White-throated Sparrow, 62; Swamp Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 11. *Total*: Species, 43; individuals, 671. Seen in same area: Horned Grebe (male collected for museum Dec. 25, contained 3½ inch bass); Phoebe, Dec. 26; Mourning Dove, 15, Dec. 25; Bald Eagle, adult with white head and tail conspicuous passed over city Dec. 26 (Northrop). The Palm Warblers recorded on the count were watched at close range (up to fifteen feet) on Dec. 23, 25, 27, and 29. Eye lines were definitely whitish. Yellow on body not bright. Therefore believed to be Western Palm (B. R. C. & E. M.). Observers: *B. R. Chamberlain (compiler), Norman Chamberlain, Miss Kitty Constable, Jack F. Dermid, Victor Dermid, Miss Anne Locke, Brem Mayer, Ernest Mitchell, Miss Betty Pleasant, Mrs. George Potter, Jimmy Potter* (Members of Mecklenburg Audubon Club).

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK, TENN. (Same area as in past 10 years; circle with 7½ mile radius centering on Bull Head of Mt. LeConte, including a section of the Tennessee-North Carolina divide from Collins Gap to Mt. Kephart; towns of Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge; open farmland 25 pct., deciduous forest 25 pct., spruce forest 20 pct., abandoned fields, 20 pct., towns and suburbs 10 pct.) Dec. 28—7:15 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. Clear throughout the day; temp. 29 to 57 degrees F.; wind variable, mostly easterly, strong at high altitudes in A.M., light in P.M.; ground frozen in A.M., covered with thin snow blanket in woods above 4000 ft. Altitude range 1200 to 6000 ft. Twenty-six observers in 9 parties; total party hours 73; total miles 385 (325 by car, 60 by foot). Great Blue Heron, 1; Turkey Vulture, 15; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 4; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Ruffed Grouse, 4; Turkey, 6; Killdeer, 22; Wilson's Snipe, 2; Mourning Dove, 85; Screech Owl, 1; Kingfisher, 4; Pileated Woodpecker, 5; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 5; Downy Woodpecker, 15; Phoebe, 15; Horned Lark, 13; Blue Jay, 10; Raven, 7; Crow, 330 (est.); Chickadee (both Black-capped, and Carolina observed), 345 (est.); Tufted Titmouse, 29; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 31; Brown Creeper, 14; Winter Wren, 9; Bewicks Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 20; Mockingbird, 9; Robin, 160. (est.); Hermit Thrush, 9; Bluebird, 67; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 79; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 4; Pipit, 75; (est.); Shrike, 1; Starling, 85; Myrtle Warbler, 7; English Sparrow, 51; Meadowlark, 55; Red-wing, 9; Cowbird, 15; Cardinal, 72; Purple Finch, 7; Pine Siskin, 2; Goldfinch, 155 (est.); Red Crossbill, 4; Towhee, 45; Savannah Sparrow, 18; Junco (both slate-colored and Carolina represented), 320 (est.); Field Sparrow, 440 (est.); White-throated Sparrow, 270 (est.); Fox Sparrow, 1; Swamp Sparrow, 7; Song Sparrow, 190 (est.). Total, 58 species and sub-species; approximately 3160 individuals. Observers: *Mrs. Juanita Allen, Fred W. Behrend, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Broome, Mary Ruth Chiles, Brockway Crouch, Edward W. Dongherty, Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Dunbar, Thos. W. Finnane, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Henry, Dr. Lee R. Herndon, William M. Johnson, Mrs. Frank Leonhard, B. Franklin McCamey, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Monroe, S. A. Ogden, Myrtle M. Seino, Doland C. Snoddy, Arthur Stupka, Dr. James T. Tanner, Rowan Togue, Paul Yambert, William Yambert* (members and guests, Tennessee Ornithological Society and National Park Service).

GREENSBORO, N. C. (Approximately same region as in past several years, including Pinecraft, Starmount, Golf Courses, Richardson Estate, Greensboro Country Park, Lakes Brandt, Scales, Richland, Philadelphia, Buffalo and White Oak; deciduous and mixed woodlands 25 pct., open fields and golf courses 30 pct., Cattail marsh and thickets 15 pct., small fresh water lakes 20 pct., City yards, campuses and parkways, 10 pct.) Dec. 27—7 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.; weather clear, light snow on ground, small ponds partially frozen, temperature 29 to 49 degrees F. Twenty-two observers mostly in 7 parties; total hours, 57; total miles, 78 (38 on foot, 40 by car). Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Double-crested Cormorant, 1; Great Blue Heron, 4; Canada Goose,

18; Mallard, 22; Black Duck, 35; Bufflehead, 5; Hooded Merganser, 6; American Merganser, 9; Turkey Vulture, 125; Black Vulture, 41; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 3; Cooper's Hawk, 4; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 5; Sparrow Hawk, 3; Bob-white, 17; Killdeer, 10; Mourning Dove, 46; Screech Owl, 2; Barred Owl, 2; Kingfisher, 2; Flicker, 34; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Red-headed Woodpecker, 4; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 10; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 29; Phoebe, 8; Horned Lark, 27; Blue Jay, 60; Crow, 235; Chickadee, 116; Tufted Titmouse, 74; White-breasted Nuthatch, 23; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 12; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 9; Brown Creeper, 14; Winter Wren, 3; Carolina Wren, 31; Mockingbird, 57; Brown Thrasher, 2; Robin, 7; Hermit Thrush, 11; Bluebird, 255; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 76; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 220; Cedar Waxwing, 30; Shrike, 14; Starling, 3135 (est.); Myrtle Warbler, 6; Pine Warbler, 8; English Sparrow, 139; Meadowlark, 63; Red-wing, 111; Purple Grackle, 6; Cowbird, 3; Cardinal, 97; Pine Siskin, 15; Goldfinch, 88; Towhee, 38; Vesper Sparrow, 1; Junco, 727; Chipping Sparrow, 2; Field Sparrow, 141; White-throated Sparrow, 341; Fox Sparrow, 4; Swamp Sparrow, 12; Song Sparrow, 229. Total 69 species, approximately 6694 individuals. Observers: Harry Bryant, Mrs. W. C. Carr, Miss Inez Caldwell, Bill Craft, Mrs. F. H. Craft, Larry Crawford, Alan Hamm, Douglass Haislip, Miss Ethel McNairy, Dr. and Mrs. Franklin McNutt, Hugh Medford, Hugh Medford, Jr., Oscar Paris, Miss Etta Schiffman, Mrs. Edith Settan, Mrs. R. E. Settan, Dr. Archie D. Shaftesbury, George A. Smith, Dr. Wesley Taylor, Thatcher Townsend (Members and guests of Piedmont Bird Club).

LENOIR, Caldwell County, N. C. (Including Lenoir and adjacent territory in radius of about 7 mi.; same area as observed in previous years; composed of woods, fields, old orchards, back yards, and streams,) Dec. 21—Cloudy, warm, no wind. Six observers, in four parties; one party, 8:00-9:00 A.M.; two parties 1:00-4:00 P.M.; one party 12:30-4:30 P.M., and long enough at night to locate a Screech Owl. Total, on foot 11 hours. Sparrow Hawk, 1; Mourning Dove, 12; Screech Owl, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Blue Jay, 1; Crow, 1; Chickadee, 6; Tufted Titmouse, 6; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown Creeper, 1; Carolina Wren, 5; Hermit Thrush, 1; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 4; Starling, 5; Pine Warbler, 1; English Sparrow, 40; Cardinal, 12; Savannah Sparrow, 2; Junco, 3; Field Sparrow, 4; White-throated Sparrow, 31; Song Sparrow, 15. Total: 24 species; 166 individuals. (Also observed: 1 Hawk, species undetermined.) Observers. Mrs. E. Harper, Margaret Harper, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Greer, Tom Parks, Mrs. C. S. Warren.

MATTAMUSKEET NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, New Holland, Hyde County, N. C. (Same area as 1940 and subsequent counts; Mattamuskeet Refuge and adjacent woods and fields; including public road across the lake; marsh 30 pct., open water 40 pct., fields and thickets 20 pct., pine and cypress woods 10 pct.) Dec. 21—7:11 A.M. to 4:55 P.M.; clear to partly overcast, ground bare; wind N to NE; temp. 28 to 45 degrees F. Six observers mostly together; total hours afield 10; total miles traveled 25 by car, 7 by foot. Pied-billed Grebe, 7; Great Blue Heron, 5; American Egret, 18; Little Blue Heron, 2; Black-crowned Night Heron, 1; Whistling Swan, 5000; Canada Goose, 15000; Blue Goose, 1; Mallard, 45; Black Duck, 250; Baldpate, 1; Pintail, 1000; Green-winged Teal, 3; Scaup, 3; Ruddy Duck, 5; Turkey Vulture, 16; Black Vulture, 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 3; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 10; Marsh Hawk, 5; Sparrow Hawk, 5; Bob-white, 6; King Rail, 1; Coot, 14; Wilson's Snipe, 7; (Greater?) Yellowlegs, 7; Herring Gull, 5; Gull-billed Tern, 2; Mourning Dove, 14; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Phoebe, 2; Crow, 56; Fish Crow, 3; Chickadee, 5; Carolina Wren, 5; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Mockingbird, 4; Catbird, 4; Brown Thrasher, 1; Robin, 1; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 125; Starling, 3;

THE CHAT

Myrtle Warbler, 2000; Yellow-throated Warbler, 1; English Sparrow, 13; Meadow-Lark, 85; Red-wing, 6227; Purple Grackle, 75; Cardinal, 10; Towhee, 3; Field Sparrow, 25; White-throated Sparrow, 15; Fox Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 21; *Total*, 62 species; 30,460 individuals. The larger flocks of birds were estimated Observers: *R. L. Wolff*, Goldsboro; *Joe West*, Warsaw; *James Faires*, Wallace; *Renato Cubenas*, Orienta, Cuba; and *Willie G. Cahoon* and *Joe G. Adams*, New Holland.

MT. OLIVE, Wayne County, N. C. (Wooten, Williams, and Brandon farms; open fields 50 pct., pine woods 10 pct., mixed pine and deciduous woods 35 pct., small ponds 5 pct.) Dec. 23—dawn to dusk. Fair to partly cloudy; temp. 38 to 54 degrees F.; light wind. Three observers in two groups. Total hours, 16; total miles: 15 on foot, 18 in car. Pied-billed Grebe, 4; Wood Duck, 10; Turkey Vulture, 10; Black Vulture, 9; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 4; Marsh Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 5; Bob-white, 35; Killdeer, 23; Wilson's Snipe, 1; Kingfisher, 3; Flicker, 16, Red-bellied Woodpecker, 7; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 5; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 8; Phoebe, 8; Blue Jay, 17; Crow, 28; Carolina Chickadee, 13; Tufted Titmouse, 10; White-breasted Nuthatch 6; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 11; Brown Creeper, 5; House Wren, 2; Winter Wren, 5; Carolina Wren, 19; Mockingbird, 20; Catbird, 3; Brown Thrasher, 7; Robin, 70 (partly est.); Hermit Thrush, 21; Bluebird, 31; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 26; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 25; American Pipit, 19; Cedar Waxwing, 43; Shrike, 16; Starling, 225 (est.); White-eyed Vireo (yellow spectacles, white throat, and wing bars, observed at very close range.—B. H. III), 1; Blue-headed Vireo, (white spectacles, gray-blue head and thick vireo bill—B. H. III), 1; Myrtle Warbler, 282 (partly est.); Pine Warbler, 1; Palm Warbler, 1; Yellow-throat, 3; English Sparrow, 243 (partly est.); Meadowlark, 98; Red-wing, 158, (est.); Rusty Blackbird, 11; Cowbird, 12; Cardinal, 21; Purple Finch, 12; Goldfinch, 66; Towhee, 25; Savannah Sparrow, 37; Vesper Sparrow, 1; Junco, 64 (est.); Chipping Sparrow, 43; Field Sparrow, 45; White-throated Sparrow, 136 (est.); Fox Sparrow, 7; Swamp Sparrow, 12; Song Sparrow, 91 (est.). *Total*: 65 species; 2,270 individuals. Observers: *Miss Elizabeth Oliver*, *William C. Davis*, *Bob Holmes*, III (compiler).

PEA ISLAND AND OREGON INLET, Dare County, N. C. (50 pct. open water, 30 pct. salt marsh, ponds and shore; 20 pct. sand dunes mostly covered with high grass and few myrtle bushes.) Dec. 20—Clear; stiff NE wind; Temp. 45 to 60 degrees F. Five observers together; total hours, 10 on foot and truck; total miles, 35 on truck, 5 on foot. Horned Grebe, 3; Pied-billed Grebe, 21; Gannet, 3000 (est.); Double-crested Cormorant, 8; Great Blue Heron, 6; Louisiana Heron, 2; Little Blue Heron, 1; American Bittern, 4; Whistling Swan, 65; Canada Goose, 10,000 (est.); Snow Goose, 7,000 (est.); Blue Goose, 1; Mallard, 4; Black Duck, 1,200 (est.); Gadwall, 15; Baldpate, 3; American Pintail, 1,000 (est.); Green-winged Teal, 225; Shoveller, 40; Bufflehead, 250 (est.); Surf Scooter, 1; Red-breasted Merganser, 26; Bald Eagle, 18; Marsh Hawk, 15; Duck Hawk, 1; Pigeon Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 4; Coot, 60; Killdeer, 1; Solitary Sandpiper, 1; Greater Yellowlegs, 15; Red-backed Sandpiper, 38; Avocet, 2; Great Black-backed Gull, 35; Herring Gull, 1,200; Bonapart's Gull, 60; Royal Tern, 1; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Robin, 55; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 500 (est.); Meadowlark, 150; Red-winged Blackbird, 85; Purple Grackle, 30; Seaside Sparrow, 5; Vesper Sparrow, 2; Field Sparrow, 26; Fox Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 21; *Total*: 50 species, 25,204 individuals. Note: On Dec. 19, 1 Wilson's Snipe was seen on Bodie Island. Tree Swallows were seen 15 miles further north on Bodie Island. About 3,500 Bonapart's Gull were on Albemarle Sound between Skinnerville and Edenton. Observers: *Paul Sturm*, Pea Island Refuge Mgr.; *Joe West*, Warsaw; *James Faires*, Wallace; *Renato Cubenas*, Orienta, Cuba; *R. L. Wolff*, Goldsboro.

RALEIGH, N. C. (Practically same area as previous counts: lakes and small ponds 40 pct., mixed pine and deciduous woodland 15 pct., deciduous woodland 10 pct., open fields 10 pct.) Dec. 22—7:30 AM to 5:30 P.M.; clear and fair all day; mostly calm; temp 32-60 degrees F.; ground bare, water open except in sheltered places some ice. Fifteen observers in six parties; total hours, 31 (27 on foot, 4 by car); total miles, 35 (27 on foot, 8 by car). Horned Grebe, 1; Pied-billed Grebe, 5; Great Blue Heron, 1; Whistling Swan, 4; Mallard 4; Black Duck, 2; Gadwall, 2; Shoveller, 2; Ring-necked Duck, 45; Lesser Scaup, 12; American Golden-eye, 1; Bufflehead, 1; Ruddy Duck, 2; Hooded Merganser, 6; Turkey Vulture, 9; Black Vulture, 12; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 6; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; Marsh Hawk, 2; Osprey, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 4; Bob-white, 13; Coot, 2; Killdeer, 10; Mourning Dove, 15; Screech Owl, 1; Great Horned Owl, 1; Kingfisher, 9; Flicker, 14; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 7; Red-headed Woodpecker, 9; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 5; Downy Woodpecker, 10; Phoebe, 4; Blue Jay, 49; Crow, 15; Chickadee, 64; Tufted Titmouse, 22; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 6; Brown Creeper, 5; Winter Wren, 3; Carolina Wren, 45; Mockingbird, 32; Brown Thrasher, 5; Robin, 16; Hermit Thrush, 8; Bluebird, 48; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 11; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 19; American Pipit, 50; Shrike, 14; Starling, 280; Pine Warbler, 14; Ovenbird, 1 (heard and seen by Philip Davis); English Sparrow, 55; Meadowlark, 38; Red-wing, 10; Cowbird, 40; Cardinal, 14; Purple Finch, 20; Goldfinch, 57; Towhee, 53; Savannah Sparrow, 65; Eastern Grasshopper Sparrow, 1 (taken by T. L. Quay); Vesper Sparrow, 2; Junco, 525; Field Sparrow, 153; White-throated Sparrow, 290; Fox Sparrow, 8; Swamp Sparrow, 20; Song Sparrow, 295. Total 76 species; 2685 individuals. (Also seen: 2 gulls, species not identified.) Observers: *D. L. Wray (compiler), Robt. Overing, Mrs. C. H. Green, C. H. Bostian, F. B. Meacham, E. W. Winkler and sons, Miss Virginia Pickelle, Philip Davis, T. L. Quay, Sandy McCulloch, Jo Ann Meacham, Gene Bostian, John David Wray.*

WARSAW, Duplin County, N. C. (West, Best and Jones Farms; woodlands 45 pct., open fields, 45 pct., pasture 5 pct., water 5 pct.,) Dec. 22—7:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Fair all day; temp. 35 to 55 degrees F.; light wind. Two observers; total hours, 10; total miles 7 (on foot). Turkey Vulture, 3; Black Vulture, 6; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Killdeer, 6; Mourning Dove, 27; Flicker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 27; Crow, 10; Tufted Titmouse, 2; Winter Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 3; Mockingbird, 7; Robin, 60; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 4; Shrike, 7; Starling, 3; Myrtle Warbler, 260; English Sparrow, 560; Meadowlark, 95; Red-wing, 250; Cardinal, 10; Towhee, 23; Junco, 70; Chipping Sparrow, 14; Field Sparrow, 20; White-throated Sparrow, 29; Song Sparrow, 23. Total: 29 species; 1,526 individuals. Observers: *Joseph A. West, Thomas Rogers, Jr.*

WILMINGTON, N. C. (New Hanover and Brunswick Counties—third count in area; Wrightsville Beach and Sound; Masonboro and Greenville Sounds; Winter Park; Greenfield Lake; Orton Plantation. Mixed pine and deciduous woodland 60 pct., pasture 5 pct., freshwater ponds and river 20 pct., Beach and salt marsh 15 pct.) Dec. 27—Dawn to dusk; clear; wind W-NW in A.M., shifting to SW-W in P.M., increasing from 11 to 18 m.p.h.; temp. 32 to 52 degrees F.; ground bare; water open. 23 observers in 7 parties (5 additional observers for 2 hours in afternoon); total hours 55 (44 on foot—11 in cars); total miles 87, 49 on foot, 38 by car.) Common Loon, 24; Horned Grebe, 32; Pied-billed Grebe, 42; Brown Pelican, 2; Cormorant, 2; Great Blue Heron, 3; American Egret, 15; Snowy Egret, 2; Louisiana Heron, 27; Little Blue Heron, 6; Green Heron, 1; Black-crowned Night Heron, 26; Canada Goose, 400 (est.); Mallard, 20; Black Duck, 19; Baldpate, 35; Pintail, 3; Green-winged Teal, 3; Shoveller, 2; Ring-necked Duck, 44; Scaup, 21; Goldeneye, 1; Bufflehead, 5; Ruddy Duck, 4; Hooded Merganser, 20; Red-breasted Mer-

ganser, 32; Turkey Vulture, 23; Black Vulture, 6; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 4; Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Red-shouldered Hawk, 6; Bald Eagle, 6; Marsh Hawk, 2; Osprey, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 11; Bob-white, 8; Clapper Rail, 4; Virginia Rail, 3; Coot, 75; Killdeer, 21; Black-bellied Plover, 5; Wilson's Snipe, 2; Willet, 1; Least Sandpiper, 1; Red-backed Sandpiper, 3; Semi-palmated Sandpiper, 6; Sanderling, 10; Herring Gull, 500 (est.); Ring-billed Gull, 100 (est.); Bonapart's Gull, 25; Forster's Tern, 23; Royal Tern, 2; Caspian Tern, 8; Mourning Dove, 8; Kingfisher, 11; Flicker, 46; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Red-headed Woodpecker, 11; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 12; Phoebe, 6; Tree Swallow, 25; Blue Jay, 70; Crow, 75; Fish Crow, 2; Carolina Chickadee, 175; Tufted Titmouse, 69; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 76; Brown Creeper, 3; House Wren, 12; Winter Wren, 12; Carolina Wren, 56; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 4; Mockingbird, 45; Catbird, 14; Brown Thrasher, 6; Robin, 53; Hermit Thrush, 15; Bluebird, 63; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 21; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 53; Pipit, 40; Cedar Waxwing, 9; Shrike, 11; Starling, 130; Blue-headed Vireo, 4; Myrtle Warbler, 400 (est.); Pine Warbler, 225 (est.); Palm Warbler, 12; Yellow-throat, 4; English Sparrow, 500 (est.); Meadowlark, 102; Red-wing, 1,000 (est.); Boat-tailed Grackle, 23; Purple Grackle, 3; Cowbird, 1; Cardinal, 37; Purple Finch, 52; Goldfinch, 10; Towhee, 66; Savannah Sparrow, 36; Henslow's Sparrow, 2; (Trott & Mebane); Seaside Sparrow, 1; Bachman's Sparrow, 2; Junco, 700 (est.); Chipping Sparrow, 400 (est.); Field Sparrow, 37; White-throated Sparrow, 450 (est.); Fox Sparrow, 90; Swamp Sparrow, 11; Song Sparrow, 70. Total species observed, 115; individuals, 7043. Observers: *Mrs. Sibbel Turnbull, Tancil Horne, Cecil Appleberry, Jim Smith, Steve Smith, Barty Martin, Bill Ruffin, John Funderburg, Ruth Loman, Roy Baker, Emma Lossen, Charles Peschau, Leona Carroll, Julia Theobald, Mrs. H. E. Lane, Polly Mebane, John Trott, Mrs. Howard J. Smith, Charles Theobald, Mrs. Will Rehder, Mrs. Boyd Quarles, Mrs. C. D. Maffitt, Claude McAllister, John Carr, Don McAllister, Sandy McCulloch, Kenneth Sprunt, Edna L. Appleberry* (compiler).

This year we were able to work more of our area than ever before. There was practically no duplication because observers were given a territory and remained there. They also were given a pocket lunch and so could stay in the field all day. At Kenneth Sprunt's suggestion our axis point was moved from Masonboro Sound to Monkey Junction on the Carolina Beach road, thus enabling us to include Big Island on the river, where the Canada Geese have been wintering, and also a good bit of Orton Plantation. This will be our area for the future. To cover even partially all the good birding spots, we need more observers.

NOTES: *Semi-palmated*, and *Least Sandpipers*—Observed by E. Appleberry, Bill Ruffin, and Barty Martin, with 7X50 binoculars at about 50 ft., on mud flat in good sunlight. The Least stood out by being a little smaller and darker, with lighter legs. Again observed on Dec. 28, feeding in the same area. *Henslow's Sparrow*: Trott and Mebane walked the old car track roadbed from Winter Park to Wrightsville Sound, veering off to investigate ponds and scrub oak territory. Bird was first flushed from grass and observed at distance of 5 to 10 ft. Later perched on low limb beside similar bird. Definitely greenish bird, reddish wings. *Bachman's Sparrow*—In same scrub oak territory where it had been observed and reported by E. Appleberry; observed by Trott and Mebane, who had been asked to watch for them. Red-cockaded Woodpecker (1), was observed on Dec. 28. Black Terns (4), were reported by Mrs. Turnbull, Loman, and Lossen, but were not included in the report because Gregor Rohwer's record of 1 on the 1945 Wilmington Christmas Count is still causing comment, and since no specimen was collected, it is reported in these footnotes, just to keep the record straight.

E. L. A.

WINDOM, Yancey County, N. C. (Farms of L. H. Hutchins, Mack Silver, Mrs. C. P. Gibson, and adjacent territory; open farm land, 50 pct., white pine woodland

2 pct., pastures 18 pct., deciduous forests 30 pct.) Dec. 20—8 A.M. to 12 noon, 1 P.M. to 5 P.M. Partly cloudy in forenoon, clear but hazy in the afternoon; temp. 22 to 55 degrees F.; wind 5 m.p.h. Four observers in two parties; total hours, 16; total miles, 20 (on foot). Cooper's Hawk, 1; Killdeer, 10; Wilson's Snipe, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 2; Crow, 35; Chickadee, 3; Tufted Titmouse, 3; Carolina Wren, 10; Mockingbird, 2; Bluebird, 10; English Sparrow, 83; Meadowlark, 1; Cardinal, 22; Red-eyed Towhee, 3; Junco, 43; Field Sparrow, 45; White-throated Sparrow, 9; Fox Sparrow, 11; Song Sparrow, 78. Total, 20 species; 375 individuals. (On account of unfavorable weather most birds stirred very little.) Observers: *Roosevelt Hughes, Paul Hughes, Brook Boone, and James Hutchins.*

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C. (Area included City, city watershed, Reynolda and Yadkin River. Pasture land 5 pct., oak-hickory forest 20 pct., old fields 20 pct., pine forest 5 pct., and lakes and rivers 50 pct.) Dec. 26—7:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Weather fair, high winds in afternoon; three inches of snow, which fell the previous day, was mostly melted by afternoon in sun areas. Ten observers; total hours, 20; total miles by car 55, on foot 32. Canada Goose, 2; Mallard, 44; Black Duck, 24; Ring-necked Duck, 28; Turkey Vulture, 20; Black Vulture, 2; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bob-white, 22; Killdeer, 2; Mourning Dove, 12; Screech Owl, 1; Flicker, 7; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Red-headed Woodpecker, 3; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 5; Phoebe, 4; Horned Lark, 1; Blue Jay, 23; Crow, 41; Carolina Chickadee, 24; Tufted Titmouse, 18; White-breasted Nuthatch, 7; Brown Creeper, 1; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 12; Mockingbird, 6; Robin, 3; Hermit Thrush, 4; Bluebird, 28; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 23; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 5; Shrike, 1; Starling, 115 (10,000 est. came to roost at Graylyn, Reynolda); Myrtle Warbler, 4; Pine Warbler, 1; English Sparrow, 68; Meadowlark, 154; Purple Grackle, 69 (1,000 est. came to roost at Graylyn, Reynolda); Cardinal, 38; Goldfinch, 54; Towhee, 21; Junco, 197; Field Sparrow, 113; White-throated Sparrow, 105; Fox Sparrow, 7; Song Sparrow, 110. Total: 49 species, approximately 12,438 individuals. Observers: *James L. Stephenson, E. Wayne Irvin, William H. Chance, The Rev. Douglas L. Rights, Burton J. Rights, Graham H. Rights, Henry S. Fishel, John Ted Tally, Henry M. Magie, and Robert H. Witherington (compiler).*

CHARLESTON, S. C. (Bulls Island, adjacent waters and marshes, mainland opposite, back to Wando River, as in preceding years; farmland 20 pct., fresh-water ponds and wooded swamps 25 pct., woods, mixed and pine 25 pct., salt-water creeks, marshes and flats 25 pct., dunes and ocean front 5 pct.) Dec. 20—Dawn to dusk; clear in morning, overcast in afternoon; temp. 42 to 59 degrees F.; wind (mainly in afternoon) NE, 5-10 m.p.h.; lots of water in woods; light frost. Seventeen observers in 4 parties (1 additional observer in A.M.); Total hours, 32 (24 on foot, 5 by car, 3 on boats); total miles 96 (27 on foot, 62 by car, 7 on boats). Common Loon, 3; Red-throated Loon, 3; Horned Grebe, 21; Pied-billed Grebe, 5; Gannet, 4 (adults); Cormorant, 26; Water-turkey, 1; Great Blue Heron, 29; American Egret, 1; Snowy Egret, 5; Louisiana Heron, 9; Little Blue Heron, 5; Mallard, 179; Black Duck, 167; Gadwall, 219; Baldpate, 20; Pintail, 70; Green-winged Teal, 113; Blue-winged Teal, 42; Shoveller, 15; Redhead, 4; Ring-necked Duck, 404; Canvasback, 70; Scaup, 10; Golden-eye, 1; Bufflehead, 35; Oldsquaw, 1; American Scoter, 11; Ruddy Duck, 23; Hooded Merganser, 15; Red-breasted Merganser, 59; Turkey Vulture, 40; Black Vulture, 15; Cooper's Hawk, 3; Red-tailed Hawk, 4; Red-shouldered Hawk, 18; Bald Eagle, 9; Marsh Hawk, 10; Pigeon Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 4; Turkey, 2; Clapper, Rail, 20; Virginia Rail, 1; Florida Gallinule, 10; Coot, 574; Oystercatcher, 123; Semi-palmated Plover, 3; Killdeer, 7; Black-bellied Plover, 33; Ruddy Turnstone, 3; Wilson's Snipe, 13; Long-billed Curlew, 1 (E. B. C., A. S. Jr., et al. In area for two weeks or more); Spotted Sandpiper, 1;

Willet, 44; Greater Yellowlegs, 4; Lesser Yellowlegs, 2; Red-backed Sandpiper, 24; Dowitcher, 16; Semi-palmated Sandpiper, 6; Marbled Godwit, 19; Sanderling, 24; Herring Gull, 111; Ring-billed Gull, 25; Laughing Gull, 15; Forster's Tern, 22; Caspian Tern, 54; Mourning Dove, 248; Belted Kingfisher, 7; Flicker, 29; Pileated Woodpecker, 26; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 35; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 12; Hairy Woodpecker, 10; Downy Woodpecker, 18; Red-cockaded Woodpecker, 12; Phoebe, 19; Tree Swallow, 51; Blue Jay, 19; Crow, 142; Fish Crow, 104; Carolina Chickadee, 48; Tufted Titmouse, 34; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 30; Brown Creeper, 3; House Wren, 20; Winter Wren, 4; Carolina Wren, 23; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 2; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 7; Mockingbird, 17; Catbird, 4; Brown Thrasher, 11; Robin, 717; Hermit Thrush, 18; Bluebird, 60; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 33; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 114; Pipit, 189; Cedar Waxwing, 56; Shrike, 9; Starling, 2; Blue-headed Vireo, 3; Orange-crowned Warbler, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 457 plus; Yellow-throated Warbler, 1; Pine Warbler, 45; Western Palm Warbler, 17; Yellow Palm Warbler, 2 (G. R., *et al.* Yellow eye-stripe noted); Yellow-throat, 8; English Sparrow, 2; Meadowlark, 162; Red-wing, 601; Rusty Blackbird, 1; Boat-tailed Grackle, 10; Florida (?) Grackle, 11; Cardinal, 52; Purple Finch, 2; Goldfinch, 44; White-winged Crossbill, 1 (N. H. S., first noted in top of pecan tree, bird was squeaked down close to observer, who noted crossed bill, white wing-bars, and notched tail, first report for South Carolina, and hence placed on hypothetical list—E. B. C.); Red-eyed Towhee, 94; White-eyed Towhee, 7; Ipswich Sparrow, 2; Savannah Sparrow, 32; Henslow's Sparrow, 1; Sharp-tailed Sparrow, 1; Seaside Sparrow, 4; Vesper Sparrow, 7; Junco, 79; Chipping Sparrow, 28; Field Sparrow, 67; White-throated Sparrow, 246; Fox Sparrow, 7; Swamp Sparrow, 66; Song Sparrow, 65. *Total:* 136 species; 7176 individuals. A number of shorebirds were missed owing to unfavorable tidal conditions. Observers: *E. B. Chamberlain, E. B. Chamberlain, Jr., Harold Guerard, Jr., Bob Holmes III, M. L. McCrae, E. O. Mellinger, I. S. H. Metcalf, James Mosimann, Harold Peters, Patsy Peters, James Pittman, George Rabb, Newton H. Seebeck, James Roe, Alexander Sprunt, Jr., Mrs. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., Alexander Sprunt III, Thomas Uzzell, E. A. Williams.*

SPARTANBURG, S. C. (Center of town to points 9 miles south and east; Ezell woods, Ligon estate, Duncan Park, Fairforest meadow, Zimmerman lake; open farmlands 25 pet., town suburbs 20 pet., mixed woodlands 40 pet., fresh-water ponds and marshes 15 pet.) Dec. 21—Dawn to dusk. Cloudy with light rain; temp. 32-54 degrees F.; wind NW, 2-18 m.p.h. Five observers in 2 parties; total miles, 25 (7 on foot, 18 by car.) Pied-billed Grebe, 5; Mallard, 9; Lesser Scaup, 3; Turkey Vulture, 8; Black Vulture, 4; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Killdeer, 28; Wilson's Snipe, 7; Mourning Dove, 6; Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 18; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Phoebe, 1; Blue Jay, 64; Crow, 25; Carolina Chickadee, 19; Tufted Titmouse, 18; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 2; Carolina Wren, 13; Mockingbird, 17; Brown Thrasher, 4; Robin, 800 plus (est.; 3 unusually large flocks); Hermit Thrush, 6; Bluebird, 45; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 17; Pipit, 20; Cedar Waxwing, 90; Shrike, 9; Starling, 48; Myrtle Warbler, 3; Pine Warbler, 4; English Sparrow, 22; Meadowlark, 3; Baltimore Oriole, 1 (male in full plumage, feeding in small dogwood tree, seen for 5 or more minutes within 10 feet by G. C., L. C., and R. C.); Purple Grackle, 90; Cardinal, 34; Purple Finch, 15; Pine Siskin, 1; Goldfinch, 34; Towhee, 23; Junco, 104; Chipping Sparrow, 10; Field Sparrow, 26; White-throated Sparrow, 46; Swamp Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 23; *Total:* 52 species; approximately 1739 individuals.—*Gabriel Cannon, Louisa Carlisle, Ruth Crick, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ligon.*

News of Local Clubs

LENOIR AUDUBON CLUB: At the regular meeting on December 2nd, which was a joint meeting with guests from the Hickory Bird Club, B. R. Chamberlain, Vice-President of the North Carolina Bird Club, and President of the Mecklenburg Audubon Club, talked on modern bird study. Mr. Chamberlain discussed the evolution of modern methods of bird study from the settlement of the new world when the importation of foreign birds was a hobby of the wealthy; through the years of classifying and cataloguing by killing and collecting specimens; to the present time when by means of powerful binoculars and cameras equipped with telephoto lenses birds may be studied in action in their natural habitats. He emphasized the value of contributions by amateur bird watchers. The talk was illustrated by a beautiful color film showing in slow motion, the flight of shore and water birds.

MRS. R. T. GREER, Secretary.

HICKORY BIRD CLUB: At the regular monthly meeting, held Thursday evening, November 13th, at the home of Mrs. George Warlick, Dr. Harry D. Althouse made an informal talk on "The Flycatcher Family and Their Nesting Habits." The talk, which was one of an educational series planned by the club, was confined chiefly to the local members of this family, including the Crested Flycatcher, Kingbird, Phoebe, Wood Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, and Least Flycatcher. Mention was made of the most beautiful member of this family, the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, which breeds from Texas to Southern Nebraska. J. Weston Clinard gave an account of the fall meeting of the North Carolina Bird Club held on October 18th and 19th at the Fresh Air Camp near Charlotte, with the Mecklenburg Audubon Club as host. The round-table discussion brought out some interesting observations of recent migrating birds, and accounts of a recent field trip to the old Herman and Rowe homesteads near Conover.

On Tuesday night, Dec. 2nd, ten members of the Hickory Bird Club, including Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Warlick, Mrs. George Warlick, Mrs. W. J. Shuford, Mrs. W. L. Long, Mrs. Katherine Vallotton, and Mr. and Mrs. Clinard, were the guests of the Lenoir Audubon Club, being entertained in the home of Miss Margaret Harper, at Lenoir, the speaker for the occasion being B. Rhett Chamberlain, President of the Mecklenburg Audubon Club and Vice-President of the North Carolina Bird Club.

The mimic thrushes and wrens were the subjects for discussion at the regular meeting held on Tuesday evening, Dec. 11th, at the home of Mrs. Donald Menzies. Mr. Clinard mentioned something of the basis for separation of the different groups, and mentioned that of about 50 species of mimic thrushes, a group most abundant in Mexico, only three, Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, and Catbird are found locally, and of the approximately 250 kinds of wrens throughout the world, only four, the Carolina Wren, Bewick's Wren, House Wren, and Winter Wren are abundant locally, though two others, the Long-billed Marsh Wren and the Short-billed Marsh Wren are found farther east in North Carolina.

LUMBERTON BIRD CLUB VISITS GADDY'S GOOSE REFUGE: Outstanding for its educational value, Lockhart Gaddy's Goose Refuge, at Ansonville, N. C., appeals to the public since it is possible to drive a car down to the banks of a three-acre pond, and see at close range thousands of Canada Geese and several kinds of ducks. Many people who see this concentration of waterfowl for the first time return home, seek out the avail-

able bird books and start learning about the life histories of the ducks and geese they have seen. This is exactly what happened on Sunday, November 30th, when the Lumberton Bird Club visited this sanctuary and saw an estimated 3,000 Canada Geese, a Richardson's Goose, two Blue Geese, nine Mallards, thirteen Black Ducks, four Pintail, a Redhead and a Ruddy Duck, and a flock of sixteen Ringneck Ducks. Long before the refuge was reached, all the cars on the highway seemed headed for the same place, and the increasing interest of the public is probably partly due to the small admission fee (which is used to buy corn for the birds.) Last year the United States Fish & Wildlife Service supplied five bushels of corn each day for the waterfowl. This year, due to economy measures in Congress, the public is donating the money which feeds the geese.

Members of the Lumberton Bird Club visiting the Ansonville waterfowl refuge were: Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Martin, Dr. E. R. Hardin, Mr. and Mrs. Ozmer Henry, Ingram Hedgepeth, Mrs. W. W. Parker, Miss Lillian Whiting, Mrs. E. L. Whiting, Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Hutto, and Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Stephens, Jr.

PIEDMONT BIRD CLUB: At the regular meeting held on Thursday evening, Nov. 22nd, in the Science Building at Woman's College, with the president Miss Etta Schiffman, in charge, numerous committee reports and announcements were made. Mrs. Edith Settan, nominating committee chairman, read the committee's slate for new officers and it was unanimously accepted. "Water Fowl," was the topic for short talks by Mrs. Floyd Hugh Craft, Miss Ethel McNairy, Mrs. Joseph M. Garrison, and Miss Pearl Wyche. Mrs. W. A. Hill discussed the article, "Taming Wild Birds," which appeared in a recent issue of National Geographic Magazine. A moving picture, secured by Mrs. Craft, program chairman, from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was shown, demonstrating the method of taking very high speed pictures, and showing pictures of hummingbirds photographed with this high-speed technique.

"Birds and Bird Photography," was the title of a lecture, by Dr. Myron A. Elliott, of the Naval Research Laboratory, of Washington, D. C., presented to the people of Greensboro, Monday evening, November 24th, at the Aycock Auditorium of Woman's College of the University of North Carolina. Over a thousand people attended and enjoyed the talk and colored moving pictures, telephoto pictures taken with unique optical equipment of Dr. Elliott's own devising. Following the lecture, a reception was held in Woman's College Alumnae House, with Mrs. W. C. Carr, hospitality chairman, in charge.

The December meeting, the Annual Meeting held on the evening of Dec. 19th, in the American Legion Grill, celebrated the tenth anniversary of the club's founding. Attendance prizes were given, and Dr. Wesley Taylor, first President, and Miss Etta Schiffman, retiring President, sketched briefly the history of the Piedmont Bird Club, since its founding in February 1938. The featured speaker of the evening was John Trott, Jr. of New London, N. C. and Chapel Hill, who gave a nature talk illustrated with beautiful Kodachrome pictures, most of which he had taken during the past summer at the Audubon Nature Camp at the Todd Wildlife Sanctuary in Maine.

STATE BIRD CLUB ENJOYS FIELD TRIP TO COASTAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

Just before sunrise, in the chill gray morning of Saturday, December 6th, our group of forty members from all parts of North Carolina left Manteo, on

Roanoke Island, in two open trucks, traveled south along Bodie Island to Oregon Inlet. Here we ferried to Pea Island, where we spent practically the entire day in the two trucks. Paul Sturm, the new Pea Island Refuge Warden,

drove one truck, and Joe Adams, associate of Bill Cahoon from the Mattamuskeet refuge, drove the other truck. Sturm, a thoroughly trained and experienced expert in his work, served as an efficient guide, and certainly won the respect and friendship of our entire group. He will fit in well with the good folk of Manteo, who certainly treated us to a real welcome and were most cordial and helpful throughout our stay. At noon the group stopped at Sturm's cabin for hot coffee and a picnic lunch.

The highlight of the trip was the close observation of approximately 5,000 Greater Snow Geese. When one realizes that there are probably only around 20,000 Greater Snow

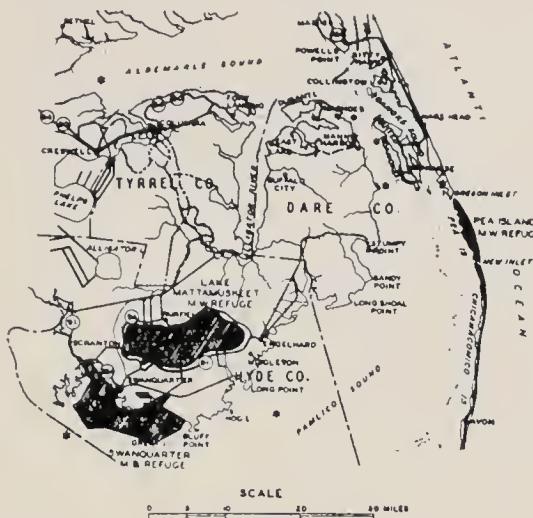
Location Map—Pea Island and Lake Mattamuskeet Migratory Waterfowl Refuges. (Courtesy U. S. Dept. of Interior.)

Geese in the world, the sight of one-fourth of them circling in a great white mass with the contrasting black-tipped wings and a clear blue sky for a backdrop—the weather was perfect for the trip—this was an unforgettable sight (as awe inspiring as the magnificent Lost Colony summer presentation a few miles to the north!)

The Pea Island Wildlife Refuge lies in a section that only recently was one of the most remote and inaccessible places on the Atlantic coast. It is a part of the North Carolina "banks" south of Roanoke Island, and is bounded on one side by Pamlico Sound, and on the other by the open Atlantic Ocean. Since 1938 great progress has been made on the Refuge on this long narrow island covering 5,880 acres. By carefully locating strategic dykes to impound rain water, large fresh-water marshes have been created, encouraging the growth of duck and geese food plants such as spike rush, sago pondweed, widgeon grass, and bulrushes. The roving sand dunes, planted with shore grass, are largely anchored.

A total of 58 species of birds were noted, including three Blue Geese, five Whistling Swan, several eagles and hawks, and Mallard, Black, Pintail, Shoveller, Ring-neck, Canvasback, Bufflehead, and Ruddy Duck, Green-winged Teal, Red-breasted and Hooded Mergansers, Common Loon, a number of different shore birds (the rarest being an Avocet), gulls, herons, and many different small song birds. The average winter duck and goose population has increased from about 15,000 to about 50,000 since the Refuge was established 10 years ago.

Besides the birds of the Refuge, the group saw three snakes sunning on the warm sand, as well as evidence of muskrat and otter. We learned from Sturm that these animals are still well under the numbers to be considered as harmful. In fact, we were surprised to learn that the muskrats are actually of value by eating a considerable number of cat-tails shoots that come up after cutting, to make way for growth of food plants of greater value to the ducks and geese. So also, the eagles and hawks are classed as useful on the refuge. They have been observed catching the ducks and geese that



are either wounded or diseased, but there were no reports of these predatory birds killing healthy water-fowl.

Back in Manteo, after dinner Saturday evening, the group gathered in the dining room of the Hotel Fort Raleigh, for comparison and checking notes, and for pleasant discussion.

On Sunday morning we caught the early ferry to Mann's Harbor and went by Stumpy point. We learned that the ducks and geese had moved out into the Sound, and only a few Scaup were in sight. A brief stop-over at Mattamuskeet with the congenial and obliging warden, W. G. Cahoon, was most worthwhile. We saw perhaps 2,000 of the Whistling Swan wintering there, besides large numbers of Canada Geese and quantities of various species of ducks. These Geese were probably at their height, but it was believed that the peak on ducks had not been reached. (A complete list of the bird species seen at Pea Island and Mattamuskeet will be found under **Field Notes and News** in this issue of **The Chat**.)

All in all, it was a great experience, giving us a keener appreciation of the five conservation projects being carried on at these two wildlife refuges. With continued wide-spread interest and support, progress will be made there toward increasing the sadly depleted numbers of waterfowl.

The following were in the group making the trip: Esther Bennett, Inez Coldwell, Etta Schiffman, John Carr, Mrs. W. C. Carr, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Craft, Dr. Charlotte Dawley, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Douglass, Parker Gay, Oscar Paris, Jr., Mrs. Edith Settan, Dr. and Mrs. A. D. Shaftesbury, Dr. and Mrs. Wesley Taylor, and Mrs. Margaret Wall, of Greensboro; William H. Bobbitt, Jr., B. R. Chamberlain, Norman Chamberlain, Jim Layton, Birford Moore, and Sally Sandifer, of Charlotte; Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Jensen, John Trott, Jr., and Dr. Richard L. Weaver, of Chapel Hill; Norman McCulloch, Sandy McCulloch, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Overing, of Raleigh; Mrs. Helen H. Beems, K. D. Pyatt, Jr., Lionel Weil, Jr., R. L. Wolff, and Dee Wooten, of Goldsboro; Bob Holmes, of Mount Olive; Dicky Wallace, of Smithfield; Paul W. Sturm, of Manteo; and Joe Adams, of New Holland.

ROBERT L. WOLFF, Goldsboro, N. C.

Field Notes and News

REDPOLLS AT HENDERSON, N. C., LAST WINTER. Mrs. T. C. Gill reports seeing four Redpolls on Feb. 8th, 1947.

MRS. A. W. BACHMAN.

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER IN DECEMBER. At Henderson, N. C., on Dec. 7th, Misses Gary, Garnette Myers, and myself saw a Black and White Warbler apparently in good condition. The bird was quite active and did not appear to be suffering from any injury. JEANETTE S. BACHMAN.

CHAPEL HILL, N. C. On May 6th, a Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen at the feeding station; 5 Pine Siskins were seen May 2nd; 1 female Purple Finch was seen May 1st; White-throated Sparrows were still in Chapel Hill on May 10th; and on May 11th I saw one Pine Siskin at my feeder.

MRS. O. F. JENSEN.

MOREHEAD CITY, N. C.: Dr. Ben F. Royal told me on November 1st that during the previous week he had seen a Great Black-backed Gull in a flock of the

common Herring Gulls at Shackleford Point (east side of Beaufort Inlet), while he was on a fishing trip. He also reported sighting a flock of Canada Geese and a flock of about 50 Brown Pelicans.

AYCOCK BROWN.

DISPOSAL OF DROPPINGS OF NESTLINGS: I've made some mighty good pictures of birds this summer, if I do say so, and two things I've proved that I haven't seen discussed in print. Bluebirds, Wrens, and some other cavity nesting birds remove the droppings and fly off to drop them away from the nest; the Robin and Wood Thrush eat them. Both types of birds, cavity and open nest, receive the droppings directly from the young. I've got movies to prove it.

J. W. E. (BILL) JOYNER, Rocky Mount, N. C.

RAVENELS, S. C.: Pileated Woodpecker was observed October 14, 15, 16, and 17th, at Ravenels, Charleston County, N. C., in hardwood, pine and cypress timber, at close range, digging for grubs in rotted tree. Had formerly identified Pileated Woodpecker in the Dismal Swamp region, in northeastern North Carolina, March 20, 1940.

L. A. ANDREW, JR., M. D., Winston-Salem, N. C.

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C. Purple Martins left nesting area on July 16th. Third brood of Bluebirds ready to leave the nests; good Blubird year here. A white, three-foot heron observed standing on Westend resident street (second week of August); yellow legs and bill. The first Canada Geese arrivals, one pair, were reported on October 12th. By October 16th, six had arrived.

HENRY MAGIE.

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.: Late in the afternoon of September 23rd, I saw circling high over our City Lake a black bird which I first thought was a Cormorant. I watched it for perhaps an hour and finally determined it to be a Water Turkey. About sundown it perched in the top of a 60-foot pine tree where it appeared to be ready to roost. The next morning I went back to the lake and found the bird still on the same perch. Five minutes after I arrived, it left the roost and sailed down to the lake, where it fed or dived, then flew to another section of the lake and dived around for a time. It visited about four sections of the lake within a half hour, then rose, circled high, and headed south. Today (October 1), I saw a flock of Myrtle Warblers feeding in the bayberry bushes around the same lake. I believe this is an early date, at least for this section.

BILL JOYNER.

WILMINGTON, N. C.: A Blue Grosbeak nest with 4 young, was observed at Masonboro Sound, on June 3rd, by Claude McAllister.

On June 8th, John Funderburg reported coming within 75 feet of a Dovekie sitting upright like a penguin on a sandbar in Middle Sound, about a mile north of Wrightsville Sound where Mrs. Sibbel Turnbull saw a Dovekie on December 28, 1946. This one recently observed was dingy and ragged, and we wonder if the one seen on the Christmas count might be still hanging around.

A pair of Painted Buntings with 5 fledglings in nest was observed June 28th on Masonboro Sound, by Claude McAllister, who found in the same area five other nests with eggs in them.

A pair of Robins feeding 4 young in nest in vine on brick wall, at Third and Ann streets, on June 30th, by Claude McAllister. On July 19, 1946, Mrs. Warwick Baker and I saw a mother Robin feeding a fledgling on Market street, in Wilmington.

Gregor Rohwer and I again saw parent and young on July 28th, 1946. These records are noteworthy, since the breeding range of the Robin in the eastern part of North Carolina is not well defined. In *Birds of North Carolina* (1942), records of nests or summer occurrence of Robins are listed for Gates, Perquimans, Hyde, and Beaufort counties in the northeastern part of the state, and for Moore county, with the statement: "Between these regions and the Atlantic Ocean, so far as we are aware, no nests have been discovered, and it appears to be unknown as a summer bird in the southeastern coastal counties."

Red-breasted Nuthatch with 4 fledglings was observed on July 25th, by John Funderburg, in a pine tree on his farm at Rocky Point, about 15 miles north of Wilmington. He was first attracted by the call right over his head and was able to observe them for about fifteen minutes with field glasses.

EDNA LANIER APPLEBERY.

HENDERSON, N. C. Fall records from Henderson Bird Club: Green Heron, Sept. 7; Osprey, Sept 29-Oct. 4; Spotted Sandpiper, Sept. 29; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Sept. 20; Black-billed Cuckoo, Oct. 4; Nighthawk, Sept. 12; Chimney Swift, Oct. 18; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Sept. 20; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Oct. 22; Eastern Kingbird, Sept. 16; Crested Flycatcher, Sept. 5; Acadian Flycatcher, Apr. 30-Sept. 20; Wood Pewee, Oct. 6; Brown Creeper, Oct. 12; House Wren, Oct. 21; Catbird, Oct 27; Wood Thrush, Oct. 6; Hermit Thrush, Oct. 29; Olive-backed Thrush, Oct. 2-27; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Oct. 27; Cedar Waxwing, Oct. 26; White-eyed Vireo, Sept. 20; Yellow-throated Vireo, Oct. 2; Blue-headed Vireo, Nov. 4 (May still be here.—Nov. 26); Red-eyed Vireo, Oct. 17; Black and White Warbler, Oct. 4; Parula Warbler, Sept. 15-Oct. 12; Yellow Warbler, Sept. 16; Magnolia Warbler, Oct. 1-18; Cape May Warbler, Sept. 29-Oct 29; Black-throated Blue Warbler, Oct 3-27; Myrtle Warbler, Oct 26; Black-throated Green Warbler, Oct. 21; Yellow-throated Warbler, Sept. 22; Black Poll Warbler, Oct. 3-29; Prairie Warbler, Oct 1; Palm Warbler, Oct. 26; Oven-bird, Oct. 2; Northern Water Thrush, Oct 8; Hooded Warbler, Sept. 20; Redstart, Oct. 12; Yellow-throat, Oct. 13; Baltimore Oriole, Sept. 8-16; Summer Tanager, Sept. 30; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Oct. 21; Indigo Bunting, Oct. 1; Savannah Sparrow, Nov. 8; Grasshopper Sparrow, Oct. 14; Junco, Oct. 22; Chipping Sparrow, Oct. 16; White-throat Sparrow, Oct. 13; Song Sparrow, Sept. 29. (The records for the Black-throated Green Warbler, Baltimore Oriole, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak were the first fall records for the Club.)

(Nov. 26, 1947.)

JEANETTE S. BACHMAN.

WILMINGTON AND SOUTHPORT, N. C.: Between June 4th and June 11th, 1947, a trip was made to these areas with Claude McAllister, Jr., of Wilmington. Two somewhat unusual birds were seen—Sooty Shearwater and Water Turkey or Anhinga. The Sooty Shearwater was seen from the shrimp trawler, *Rosina*, on June 10th, a few miles off Baldhead Island. It was seen flying and then lit on the water.Flushed at a distance of less than 100 feet, it was observed through 7x50 binoculars. McAllister and the boat captain agreed on the identification marks. The Water Turkeys were found flying over open marsh areas, along the side of the road leading to the mansion at Orton Plantation, on June 9th. Somewhat resembling Cooper's Hawks in flight, the three or four birds seen were never less than 100 feet from the ground. One bird came within 200 feet of us, and on all of them the markings stood out plainly in the early morning sunlight.

Among 28 Herons banded on Battery Island were 12 Louisiana Herons which now carry a red cellulose band above the aluminum band, on the right legs. This

combination should be watched for by anyone visiting Battery or the Southport area during the next few years.

John Funderburg assisted in field work in Wilmington. Following is a list of birds observed: Sooty Shearwater; Brown Pelican; Cormorant; Water Turkey; Great Blue Heron; American Egret; Snowy Egret; Louisiana, and Little Blue Herons; Black Crowned Night Heron; Least Bittern, 1; Turkey Vulture; Cooper's Hawk; Red Shouldered Hawk; Bald Eagle; Osprey; Bobwhite; Turkey, several with young, in pine barrens above Orton pond, June 9; Clapper Rail; Oyster Catcher; Willet; Herring, Ring-billed, and Laughing Gulls; Common, Least, and Royal Terns; Black Skimmer; Dove; Yellow-billed Cuckoo; Barred Owl; Nighthawk; Chimney Swift; Hummingbird; Kingfisher; Flicker; Pileated, Red-bellied, Red-headed, Downy, and Hairy Woodpeckers; Eastern Kingbird; Crested, and Acadian Flycatcher; Wood Peewee; Roughwinged, and Barn Swallows; Purple Martin; Blue Jay; Crow; Fish Crow; Carolina Chickadee; Tufted Titmouse; Brown-headed Nuthatch; Carolina Wren; Mockingbird; Catbird; Brown Thrasher; Robin; Wood Thrush; Bluebird; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Shrike; White-eyed, Yellow-throated, and Red-eyed Vireos; Prothonotary, Parula, Yellow-throated, Pine, and Prairie Warblers; Louisiana Water-thrush (Wilmington, June 4); Yellow-breasted Chat; English Sparrow; Meadowlark; Red-winged Blackbird; Orchard Oriole; Purple, and Boat-tailed Grackles; Summer Tanager; Towhee; and Chipping Sparrow: Total, 82 species.

(Aug. 12, 1947)

SANDY McCULLOCH, Raleigh

PEA ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. Birds observed Dec. 6, 1947, from 6:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Weather clear cool; light NW wind; travel by open truck; 40 person in group; covered about 30 miles. Common Loon; Horned Grebe; Pied-billed Grebe; Gannet (est. 2,500); Double-crested Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Louisiana Heron; Black-crowned Night Heron; American Bittern; Whistling Swan; Canada Goose; Hutchin's Goose; Blue Goose (3); Mallard; Black Duck; Pintail; Green-winged Teal; Shoveller; Ring-necked Duck; Canvasback; Bufflehead; Ruddy Duck; Hooded Merganser; Red-breasted Merganser; Black Vulture; Sharp-shinned Hawk; Cooper's Hawk; Bald Eagle; Marsh Hawk; Duck Hawk; Sparrow Hawk; Clapper Rail; Coot; Kildeer; Black-bellied Plover; Greater Yellow-legs; Least Sandpiper; Red-backed Sandpiper; Sanderling; Avocet; Great Black-backed Gull; Herring Gull; Ring-billed Gull; Royal Tern; Mourning Dove; Short-eared Owl; Crow; Long-billed Marsh Wren; Robin; Myrtle Warbler; Meadowlark; Red-winged Blackbird; Boat-tailed Grackle; Purple Grackle; Savannah Sparrow; Seaside Sparrow; Song Sparrow: Total species, 58. Note: Estimated number of Snow Geese, 5,000; estimated number of Canada Geese, 1,000. Wind and an extremely low tide made feeding in the Sound possible, thus accounting for the small number of geese and ducks seen on the Refuge during the day. ROANOKE ISLAND: White-winged Scoter; Canvasback Duck; Flicker; Carolina Wren; Ipswich Sparrow. STUMPY POINT: Greater Scaup Duck; Catbird; Mockingbird. Additions to the list from MATTAMUSKEET: American Egret; Baldpate; Turkey Vulture; Red-tailed Hawk; Gull-billed Tern; Belted Kingfisher; Phoebe; Tree Swallow; Fish Crow; Bluebird; Starling; Maryland Yellow-throat; English Sparrow; Cardinal; Towhee; Swamp Sparrow. (Other species present, but time did not allow for observation.) Total species: 80. On the Mattamuskeet Refuge area, the following figures compared with 1946 are of interest; Canada Goose, est. 45,000-50,000; (10% increase; Whistling Swan, est. 5,500 (5% increase); Black Duck, est. 5,000 (5% increase); Mallard, est. 3,500 (5% increase); Baldpate, 3,500 (5% increase); Pintail, 9,000 (6% increase). The geese were probably at their height; the duck peak had probably not yet been reached.

ROBERT L. WOLFF, Goldsboro, N. C.

A FEW NESTS IN MAY: May of 1947 opened for me with the discovery of a Phoebe's nest stuck against the sheer wall of a damp culvert running beneath a concrete highway. It held three half-feathered nestlings and was swarming with insects, as usual. The nest, which consisted of mud and moss made into pellets, had no support under it whatever—not a ledge or even an irregularity help the architect. This is the seventh year Phoebe's have built unsupported nests against the walls of this culvert. I still don't know what holds the nests to these damp walls.

On May 9 a Prairie Warbler's nest was found in the top of a swaying sweet-gum sapling not quite head high. The nest was a fairly deep cup of straw and feathers. Although it seemed to be complete, it was a week before the first egg was laid—pinkish white with fine brown dots gathered into a wreath at the larger end. Two days later the second egg was laid. That night came a sharp windstorm. Next day the nest was empty. I found the eggs, unharmed, lying among the honeysuckle vines on the ground below and replaced them in the nest. I then fastened a rod to the sapling so as to keep it from swaying and spilling out the eggs again. But the bird never returned. After waiting ten days I collected the eggs and nest.

On May 12 I found two nests scarcely six feet from the ground. I noticed a Mockingbird flying into the dense head of a small spruce, followed her, and found the nest, built of twigs and straw. It contained two gray-green eggs mottled with brown, a curious combination of hues found in no other eggs except the jays. Five days later the bird was incubating four eggs. She hatched them all. The other nest was a Cardinal's. It contained one half-naked nestling and an addled egg. Later I watched the mother bring off this young one and "play baby" when the male came up, so that he had to feed her as well as the child. Female Cardinals habitually work the males in this fashion.

On May 30 I found a Vireo's nest hanging from the fork of a persimmon twig seven feet above ground. It had four eggs, white with a wreath and a sprinkle of red dots. The owner came up and complained. She was smaller than the commoner vireos, and had no white wingbars or stripes on head. She was mostly an ashy grey except for a light breast. I could only identify her as a Warbling Vireo. But the books say she is rare east of the mountains and always nests high.

The high moment of the month came on May 10 when I crossed the grass-grown and brushy corner of a wide field. I decided it was just right for a Bobwhite's nest. Almost at once I found it. It was a short tunnel under a beargrass tuft through which ran a twig from a pine. There was only one egg. I would never have found it except that the light from this newlaid beauty just happened to catch my eye, for due to the pine twig, this nest had something like a roof. But a nest in such a situation is easy prey for dogs, cats, skunks, 'possums, snakes, and even box terrapins, and I had small hope that the owner (if the male is Bobwhite, what should the female be called?) would complete her mission. But 18 days later the nest held 17 eggs. On June 20 she was on the nest, her colors concealing her so perfectly I had to stare a long time before I could make out her head. On June 22 the nest held only eggshells and one addled egg. The shells had been cut around the larger end, but the circle was not complete, leaving a hinge in each case. The Bobwhites eggs are much thicker relatively than a hen's eggs, hence the young one has a special cutter on the end of his beak. As he revolves in the egg, he automatically cuts his own opening. When I saw that 16 eggs had been hatched successfully, I rejoiced, for Bobwhites have been getting scarcer everywhere in the neighborhood of towns. (This one was in sight of three houses and was only a dozen feet from a used footpath.) In the next moment I was sad, for I hoped I could manage to be there when madame brought off her brood and led them off through the grass with the incessant throaty murmur and low chip characteristic of *Colinus* mamas.

Bachman's Sparrow—A Portrait

Writing of Bachman's Sparrow in his "Birds of South Carolina," Wayne states: "Neither Bachman, who discovered this bird in April, 1832, near Parker's Ferry on the Ediso River, (S. C.) nor Audubon, who described it, was able to find its nest." It was therefore with considerable excitement and pleasure that I located and photographed my first nest a number of years ago near Charleston. Three years ago, June 4, 1944, I added to my list a second nest. That one was found within a few blocks of my house just within the city limits of Charlotte (*The Chat*, Vol. IX, No. 3).

In 1947, I again recorded a Bachman's Sparrow nest and support the record with a photograph of the incubating bird.

The nest was located some thirty feet off of an unpaved, but frequently used road in the southeastern part of Charlotte, less than a thousand feet from the location of the nest found in 1944. As before, the site was an open field spotted with young pines and scrub oaks. Unlike the other nests, however, this one, at the base of an isolated grass clump, was so exposed that the entrance could be seen easily from a distance of twenty feet or more. I found it at 6:00 A.M. on May 19, 1947, by watching an old bird preen itself for some minutes in a small pine and then fly almost directly to the site. The entrance faced east and I was able to see the bird incubating before it hurried away at my approach. There were four pure white eggs. At 1 P.M. that day, I returned for nest pictures and was amazed to find myself able to move up slowly to within four feet of the bird before it fled. She (Wayne says that the male does not assist in nest building or incubating) was crouched in the nest with her bill apparently resting upon the lower edge. The buff superciliary lines blended well with the surrounding blades of dead grass. It was not, however, until my pictures were printed that I noticed the prominent median line. Although most descriptions of Bachman's Sparrow omit mention of a median line, it is conspicuous in a front view and I was pleased to find that it shows quite plainly in the study skins that I was able to examine at the Charleston Museum in June.

On returning to the nest on the following day I found it empty, and although I was disappointed, it hardly seemed possible that a nest so exposed that no grasses had to be moved aside for photographing could escape detection by the numerous enemies of the ground nesters.

The nest was made entirely of dead grasses; those used for the lining being very fine. It rested directly upon the ground and was completely arched over, resembling a sphere with an inside diameter of nearly three inches, with an almost circular opening about two inches across. The threshold measured one and seven-eights inches above the ground. There was no appreciable depression in the earth.

(July 14, 1947.)

B. RHETT CHAMBERLAIN, Charlotte, N. C.



Bachman Sparrow Incubating

With the Editor

PROFESSOR ALLEN TO BE IN CHARLOTTE: The Mecklenburg Audubon Club has secured Professor A. A. Allen, of Cornell University, for the evening of March 22, when he will give his lecture with colored moving pictures, "Listening in on Home Life of Birds." The place is Queens College, Charlotte; the time is 8:00 P.M.; and the price is 75 cents. Further information may be secured from Mrs. H. W. Kilpatrick, 212 Queens Road, Charlotte, N. C.

BIRD SANCTUARY SIGNS AVAILABLE: The Raleigh Bird Club has secured several dozen metal signs about 3x12 inches, with the wording "Bird Sanctuary" in black on a white field. Members of other local clubs will be interested in the fact that they have some surplus, which can be secured for thirty cents each from Frank B. Meacham, Secretary of the Raleigh Bird Club, at the North Carolina State Museum, Raleigh, N. C. For shipping and postage five cents should be added.

"THE GOURD IN FOLK LITERATURE," is the title of a monograph by Mrs. Eddie W. Wilson, N. C. B. C. member of Cary, N. C., recently published by The Gourd Society of America, as No. 3, of their Ethnological series. With references from Old and New World classics, Mrs. Wilson shows how ancient and modern peoples have resorted to gourds for inspiration as allegories and symbols of imaginative expression. Here are samples from the dozen chapter titles: "The Gourd in Symbolism and Ceremony"; "The Gourd in Art and Music"; "The Gourd in Natural Science"; and "The Gourd in Children's Literature." The illustrated book, priced at \$3.00, may be secured from The Gourd Society of America, Horticultural Hall, Boston, Mass.

SILENT WINGS—A MEMORIAL TO THE PASSENGER PIGEON, a 42 page booklet edited by Walter E. Scott was published in connection with the dedication of a memorial monument to the Passenger Pigeon in Wyalusing State Park, Wisconsin, May 11, 1947. Included, besides the talks given at the dedication, are reprints of two valuable papers by A. W. Schorger on the early history of the Passenger Pigeon, especially in Wisconsin. There are 12 cuts from photographs and drawings, including six illustrations from photographs from living birds. The colored frontispiece is from an original painting, dated 1835, by William Pope. A limited number of copies are available to the public, and may be secured at \$1.00 each, from: Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Walter E. Scott, Mendota Beach Heights, Madison 5, Wisconsin.

SPECIAL NOTICE: After several years' discussion in the N. C. B. C. regarding the possibility of closer coordination and cooperation with bird lovers and nature groups in South Carolina, the matter has been mentioned to various leaders in South Carolina and has elicited a most cordial response. The general proposition has been approved by the N. C. B. C. Executive Committee, and a committee, with B. R. Chamberlain, of Charlotte, as chairman, has been appointed to confer with representatives from South Carolina groups, and it is hoped that a preliminary report will be ready for the Annual Meeting of the N. C. B. C., Chapel Hill on March 20th. At any rate, this project will be brought before the meeting for discussion and possible action. Pertinent ideas which will probably be discussed will include the possible extent and length of the proposed cooperation (or consolidation); the joint use of **The Chat**; the relative autonomy of the state groups and their affiliated local groups; possible change of name to "Carolina Bird Club," etc.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Annual Meeting, Chapel Hill, March 20, 1948

Meetings at Person Hall Art Gallery, University of North Carolina

10:45 A.M. **Opening Session:** Announcement of Committees. Registration fee \$.50 (immediate families of members exempt.) Banquet tickets. **Note:** BANQUET RESERVATIONS and requests for room reservations in homes in Chapel Hill should be made IMMEDIATELY to Mrs. H. D. Crockford, Box 816, Chapel Hill, N. C. Limited number of rooms at Carolina Inn (\$2.50 to \$4.00 each) may be secured by writing the Carolina Inn Manager AT ONCE.

12:00 Noon. **Informal lunch,** Inn cafeteria.

1:45 P.M. **Registration**
Panel discussion: Margaret Wall, leader, "Activities for Youth and Local Clubs."
Scientific Papers.

4:30 P.M. **Tea:** At Mrs. O. F. Jenson's, given by Chapel Hill Bird Club.

7:00 P.M. **Banquet,** Carolina Inn—\$2.25 (tax and tips included.)

8:00 P.M. "North With the Birds to Hudson Bay," lecture with color films and unique bird song recordings, by DR. ARTHUR A. ALLEN, Professor of Zoology, CORNELL UNIVERSITY, ITHACA, N. Y.
This is a story of the enchanting bird life of Timberline and Tundra, where some of our most interesting migrants spend the summer: Harris Sparrow, Redpoll, Tree Sparrow, and Northern Shrike; Ptarmigan, Pipits, and Arctic Loons; Golden Plover, Hudsonian Curlew, Dowitcher, and Phalarope at their nests so close you will want to touch them.

Sunday morning, Mch. 21—Field trip. Professor Allen will take his sound truck and let us see it in action!

(Meetings open only to N. C. B. C. members and families.)

Notices of the N. C. B. C. Field trip to Bull's Island, S. C., on February 21 and 22, have been mailed to all members. A story of this trip will be in the next issue of **The Chat**.

SPRING FIELD TRIP, to the WILMINGTON, N. C., area, Saturday, April 24, 1948. Requests for room reservations or other information should be addressed, WITHOUT DELAY, to Mrs. Cecil Appleberry, 5 Lake Forest Parkway, Wilmington, N. C.

LOCAL CLUBS AND THEIR OFFICERS

Arden, Roscraggon Wood, Inc.: P—Harold B. Swope, Skyland; V-P—Dr. Leigh Robinson, Skyland; S-T—Mrs. W. H. Lashley, Royal Pines; Board of Governors—Dr. Graham Harden, Skyland; Miss Susan Sheppard, Skyland; Kenneth Carr, Skyland.

Asheville Bird Club: P—R. H. Rembert; V-P—Miss Margaret Decker; S—Mrs. M. F. Meredith, 10 Castle St.; T—Mrs. Francis E. Field.

Blowing Rock, Blowing Rock Audubon Club: P—Miss Lena Reeves; V-P—Mrs. Joe Winkler.

Boone Bird Club: P—Dr. Robert King; V-P—Mrs. W. M. Burwell; S-T—Miss Cora Jeffcoat.

Chapel Hill Bird Club: P—Mrs. Harold Walters; V-P—David Frey; S-T—Mrs. David Olson, Box 998; Publicity Chairman—Mrs. Horace D. Crockford.

Charlotte, Mecklenburg Audubon Club: P—Mrs. George C. Potter, 2111 Malverne Rd.; V-P—Mrs. H. W. Kilpatrick; S—Miss Connie Thigpen, 1215 Greenwood Cliff; T—Mrs. W. B. Simmons.

Durham, Duke-Durham Bird Club: P—Miss Bertha B. Hopkins, 506 Buchanan Road; S-T—Mrs. M. W. Johnson.

Greensboro, Piedmont Bird Club: P—Mrs. Floyd H. Craft; V-P—R. D. Douglas and Mrs. H. L. Medford; Rec. S—Miss Charlotte Dawley; Cor. S—Miss Ethel McNairy; T—Miss Sarah Lesley; Ex. Comm.—Officers and Mrs. W. C. Carr and Miss Etta Schiffman.

Guilford College, T. Gilbert Pearson Bird Club: P—Elizabeth Hare; V-P—J. G. Gilbert; S-T—Margery Pickett.

Henderson Bird Club: P—Mrs. A. W. Bachman; V-P—Mrs. T. C. Gill; S-T—Miss Agnes Pegram.

Hickory Bird Club: P—J. Weston Clinard; V-P—Mrs. George E. Bisanar; S-T—Mrs. Alex F. Vallotton, 1415 Eighth Ave.; Reporter—J. W. Clinard.

High Point, Catesby Bird Club: P—James R. Mattocks; S—Mrs. Chester C. Haworth; T—Mrs. John C. Siceloff.

Lenoir Audubon Club: P—Miss Margaret Harper; V-P—R. T. Greer; S-T—Mrs. R. T. Greer, Box 800.

Lumberton Bird Club: P—James Stephens, Jr.; V-P—Mrs. Henry McKinnon; S—Mrs. D. L. Whiting; T—Miss Lillian Whiting.

Mount Airy Bird Club: P—Mrs. J. Bruce Yokley; V-P—O. W. Kochitsky; S—Mrs. H. G. Long; T—Fred Johnson.

Raleigh Bird Club: P—Phillip H. Davis; V-P—W. B. Nesbit; S—Frank B. Meacham, N. C. State Museum; Ex. Comm.—Officers and Mrs. A. J. Skaale and G. M. Garren.

Roanoke Rapids Bird Club: P—Mrs. D. L. Wheeler; V-P—Miss Clara Hearne; S-T—Mrs. T. L. O'Briant, 538 Vance St.

Rocky Mount, Francis H. Craighill Bird Club: P—J. W. E. Joyner; V-P—The Rev. Gray Temple; S—Miss Dorothy Craighill; T—Miss Lilly Shearin; Members of Executive Committee—Mrs. Fairy Bandy and Mrs. J. W. E. Joyner.

Southern Pines Bird Club: P—Mary Keller Wintyen; V-P & S—Miss Louise Haynes; T. & Rec. Sec.—Miss Norma Shiring.

Statesville Audubon Club: P—Miss Nancy B. Eliason; V-P—Miss Grace Anderson; S—Mrs. Calhoun Ramsey; T—Mrs. Earl Davis.

Tryon Bird Club: P—G. H. Holmes; S-T—Katherine D. Hamilton.

Wilmington Bird Club: P—Mrs. Cecil Appleberry, 5 Lake Forest Parkway; V-P—John Funderburk; S—Mrs. Warwick R. Baker, 204 Kenwood Ave.; T—Charles F. Theobald.

Winston-Salem Bird Club: P—Henry Magie; S-T—Wm. S. Rothrock, 2434 Stockton St.; Directors—Charles H. Babcock, Thurmond Chatham, Jr., Richard J. Reynolds, II.

The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB



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Greensboro, N. C.

The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

DR. ARCHIE D. SHAFESBURY, *Editor*

Woman's College of University of North Carolina, Greensboro, N. C.

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CONTENTS

N. C. B. C. Holds Spring Meeting at Chapel Hill	21
N. C. B. C. Field Trip to Bull's Island— <i>Charlotte Hilton Green</i>	23
News of the Local Clubs	25
Feeding Station to Rival "Wings at My Window"— <i>W. G. Templeton</i>	27
Courtship of the Cardinal— <i>J. Weston Clinard</i>	27
North Carolina's Type Forms— <i>B. Rhett Chamberlain</i>	27
Building Proper Homes for your Bird Neighbors— <i>A. D. S.</i>	29
Constitution of North Carolina Bird Club	31
Field Notes and News	32
With the Editor	36
New and Reinstated Members of N. C. B. C.	Inside Back Cover
Local Clubs and their Officers	Outside Back Cover

THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

Organized March 6, 1937, for the study and protection of our birds. Membership is open to those interested in this work, and is divided into four classes: Active members, who pay dues of \$1.00 a year; Sustaining Members, dues of \$5.00 a year; Contributing Members, dues of \$25.00 a year; and Life Members, \$100.00, which may be paid at one time or in four consecutive annual payments of \$25.00.

Nominations and applications for membership should be sent to: Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, Treasurer, 6 Springdale Court, Greensboro.

N. C. B. C. Holds Spring Meeting at Chapel Hill

Dr. A. A. Allen, ornithologist from Cornell University, was the featured speaker at the tenth annual spring meeting of the North Carolina Bird Club, held at Chapel Hill on March 20th and 21st. Dr. Allen's lecture, "North With the Birds to Hudson Bay," with splendid colored moving pictures of birds and other animals of the Canadian timberline and tundra, was given Saturday evening, following the annual dinner at the Carolina Inn. Dr. Allen was present at the tea given at Mrs. O. F. Jensen's home Saturday afternoon by the Chapel Hill Bird Club, who were hosts for the meeting, and demonstrated his sound truck and the parabolic reflector which he has designed to pick up bird calls and other sounds of nature, for permanent recording on phonograph records.

Over 125 members registered for the meeting, which was one of the most enjoyable meetings which the club has ever held. The opening session which convened Saturday morning in Person Hall Art Gallery, of the University of North Carolina, was called to order by the N. C. B. C. President, Mrs. O. F. Jensen, of Chapel Hill. After a brief session for various announcements, including the lists of the committees, the session was adjourned for a tour of the Person Hall Art Gallery where there was a splendid display of bird prints and etchings, including an extensive Menaboni collection secured for exhibition from the National Audubon Society by the Chapel Hill Bird Club, and also many fine pictures loaned by members of the local club.

The Saturday afternoon session, which convened in Person Hall, began with committee reports. Mrs. Charles Swart, Membership Chairman, reported 800 members for the N. C. B. C. Written reports were filed by Nature Center Chairman, Miss Clara Hearne; Sanctuary Committee Chairman, D. L. Wray; and Education Chairman, Dr. R. L. Weaver; and informal reports were given regarding the highly successful state-wide field trips conducted at Pea Island, N. C., by Bob Wolff, and at Bulls Island, S. C., by B. R. Chamberlain, and attention was called to the field trip to be held at Wilmington, N. C., April 23-24, in charge of Mrs. Cecil Appleberry. R. D. Douglas, chairman of a special committee for incorporating N. C. B. C., gave a preliminary report, and a motion was passed that this committee, consisting of R. D. Douglas, Archie D. Shaftesbury, and B. R. Chamberlain, continue their work and report to the new executive committee.

MERGER WITH SOUTH CAROLINA NATURE GROUP APPROVED

A letter was read from Alexander Sprunt, Jr., Charleston, S. C., replying to an official inquiry from the North Carolina Bird Club regarding the possibility of a

coalition of the South Carolina Nature group with the N. C. B. C. Regarding the two leading organized local groups in South Carolina, Sprunt's letter stated that the Charleston group had voted unanimously to merge with N. C. B. C., and the Columbia group had also signified its intent to join a merger of this nature. The idea was enthusiastically approved by the large group of N. C. B. C. members present, and a committee, consisting of Dr. Richard L. Weaver, Dr. Archie D. Shaftesbury, Harry T. Davis, and B. Rhett Chamberlain, chairman, was appointed to work out plans for the merger.

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

The report of the Nominating Committee, which consisted of J. W. E. (Bill) Joyner, Archie D. Shaftesbury, and Harry T. Davis, chairman, was presented by the chairman. Various additional nominations were presented from the floor, and the following officers were elected: President, B. Rhett Chamberlain, Charlotte; Vice-Presidents: Robert L. Wolff, Goldsboro; Mrs. Cecil Appleberry, Wilmington; Alexander Sprunt, Jr., Charleston, S. C.; Secretary, Miss Sarah Nooe*, Charlotte; Treasurer, Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, Greensboro; Editor of *The Chat*, Dr. A. D. Shaftesbury, Greensboro; Members-at-large of the Executive Committee: Harry T. Davis, Raleigh; Dr. Richard L. Weaver, Chapel Hill.

An interesting and valuable panel discussion on the subject, "Local Club and Youth Activities," was conducted by Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall. Participants in this discussion were: Mrs. Charlotte Hilton Green, Raleigh, former president of the Raleigh Bird Club, and nationally known nature writer; Mrs. O. F. Jensen, N. C.-B. C. President, and enthusiastic bird bander and Junior Audubon club worker; Miss Laura Owens, from the Charlotte, N. C., Children's Nature Museum; Mrs. Edith Settan, Greensboro, teacher in Caldwell school, and former President of the Piedmont Bird Club; John Funderburg, Wilmington, taxidermist; Robert Wolff, Goldsboro, Boy Scout Executive and former president of the Piedmont Bird Club; Dr. R. L. Weaver, Chapel Hill, Program Director North Carolina Resource Use Commission; and J. W. Clinard, Hickory Bird Club President, who was pinch hitting for Mrs. Clinard, who is principal of the Brookdale School at Hickory.

Following is a list of the scientific papers and moving pictures which were presented at the Saturday afternoon session. (The moving pictures were presented in the studio of Swain Hall Radio Station.)

"Criteria for Collecting Phenological Data," Dr. Elizabeth J. Frey, Chapel Hill.

"Preliminary Report of Purple Finch Weight Study at Chapel Hill, N. C., 1946-1947," Mrs. Ove F. Jensen, Chapel Hill.

"Observations of Waterfowl in Inland Waters," William L. Hamnett, Wildlife Resources Commission, Raleigh.

"Life History Studies of the Wood Thrush," Florence Weaver, Chapel Hill.

"A State-wide Quail Inventory in Alabama," Dr. F. S. Barkalow, N. C. State College, Raleigh.

"Birds of Rocky Mount and Vicinity," (moving pictures), Bill Joyner, Rocky Mount.

"Maine Audubon Nature Camp, 1947," (moving pictures), Margaret Y. Wall, Greensboro.

At the annual dinner meeting, which was held Saturday evening at the Carolina Inn, the address of welcome was given by Mrs. Harold Walters, of the Chapel Hill Bird Club, and the response was given by the newly elected President of the North Carolina Bird Club, B. Rhett Chamberlain, of Charlotte. Attending members

*Miss Nooe was unable to serve as Secretary, and the Executive Committee has elected Mrs. George Potter, Charlotte, as Secretary.

who were given special recognition included two former presidents of N. C. B. C., Miss Claudia Hunter, of Henderson, and Miss Clara Hearne, of Roanoke Rapids and Pittsboro; Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Clarkson, of Charlotte; Dr. Eugene Odum, of the University of Georgia, Athens, Ga.; and Mrs. H. H. Brimley, widow of our beloved "H. H."

The field trip on Sunday morning, March 21, was in charge of Harry Yeatman, of Chapel Hill, and over sixty attended, along with the guest of honor, Dr. A. A. Allen.

Space does not permit giving credit to all who contributed to the splendid success of the meeting, but certainly a number of people should be mentioned. To Dr. and Mrs. David Frey goes the credit for all the details of captions, arranging, and hanging the exhibit of Menaboni and local bird pictures displayed in Person Hall Art Gallery. The flowers in Person Hall were arranged by Mrs. F. H. Edmister, while Mrs. Carl Pegg had charge of the flowers at the annual dinner and at Mrs. Jensen's home. The enjoyable tea given at Mrs. Jensen's home by the Chapel Hill Bird Club was under the direction of Mrs. J. P. Harland. General registration for the meeting was in charge of Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, Greensboro, and Bill Craven, Goldsboro. Registration for rooms and for banquet tickets was in charge of Mrs. H. D. Crockford, Chapel Hill, and she and Dr. Richard Weaver, Chapel Hill, who had charge of the publicity, both looked after various arrangements and equipment that helped much in the smooth running of the meeting. Attractively painted bird place cards at the dinner were the work of the fifth and sixth grade students at Greensboro's Caldwell School, of which Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall is Principal. Each member at the dinner received a very attractive, large, colored reproduction of an Audubon print, arranged for by Mr. and Mrs. Ove Jensen, through the courtesy of R. S. Harris, Durham, special agent of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company.

A. D. S.

N. C. B. C. Field Trip to Bull's Island

CHARLOTTE HILTON GREEN, Raleigh, N. C.

As pirates did of old (so tradition says) the North Carolina Bird Club took Bull's Island the week-end of Feb. 21-22—took it legally and literally, from a United States Government landing barge. Over forty members from all parts of the state attended the field meeting there, and in spite of the bad breaks the weather gave us (it rained practically all the time) everyone enjoyed the trip thoroughly. And the species count was 85!

Everyone wants to go back. Bull's Island is a fascinating land, a barrier island on the South Carolina seacoast north of Charleston, a place of open marshes, of spartina grass, of forests of live oak draped in Spanish moss, of magnolia and holly, of palmetto, bayberry, and yaupon. There are both fresh water and salt water marshes and there are wildfowl on all of them. The island is part of the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, one of the most important on the Atlantic coast, a six-mile strip of land, marsh and islands stretching for 21 miles along the coast and including 28,000 acres.

Here, in the legendary haunts of pirates, on a sub-tropical island of 5,000 acres that was formerly the deluxe hunting preserve of a wealthy sportsman (who later turned it over to the government for a Wildlife Refuge) the Tar Heel Birdmen gathered with a few choice souls, including Burnham Chamberlain and Alexander Sprunt III (Sandy), from the sister state.

Our group, the largest ever to make headquarters at Dominick House (so named in honor of the donor, Gayer D. Dominick, who thoughtfully stipulated that the

fine residence should be maintained as a lodge where anyone could stay while visiting the Refuge) included members from Tryon, Charlotte, New London, Greensboro, Chapel Hill, Raleigh, Goldsboro, and Wilmington. In age they ranged from around fourteen to a "young sixtyish." Rhett Chamberlain, one of the vice-presidents, was in charge of arrangements and all ran as smoothly as did last fall's Charlotte field trip, of which he was also in charge. (Except this time Rhett did not seem to stand in so well with the weatherman.)

The bird count began with the water trip; we left from Moore's Landing and followed the winding channels that twisted and turned past vast marshes with many birds, and along a few mud flats. Unfortunately, the tide was high and most of the flats were covered, so there were not the vast numbers of shore birds seen at low tide, but on a few exposed bars and mud flats there were Oyster Catchers, Black Skimmers, Marbled Godwits, Plovers—some of them "firsts" for a few of the visitors.

During the winter, ducks and geese flock to the ponds. December is the high time for ducks. There were still many to be seen, though not a goose was reported. There are many excellent trails leading out from the Lodge, and if we had had any kind of break in the weather, most of us would have explored all of them. As it was, nearly everyone went tramping on one or more of them, in the "between drizzles" and even in heavy downpours. There is a mile-long trail, the "turkey-walk" leading down to one of the finest beaches on the Atlantic Coast. This is on the ocean side of the island, which is about six miles long, and from half, to a mile and a mile-and-a-half wide. Everyone wanted to walk the length of that beach.

Skirting the various ponds, we saw Mallards, Shovellers, Teal, Buffle-heads, Bald-pates, Pintails, Ruddy Ducks, a Florida Gallinule or two, and Coots by the hundreds. And there must have been thousands of Myrtle Warblers on the island, for every walker along the trails reported seeing them by the hundreds. With the great masses of wax myrtle, or bayberry bushes, one would expect to see these warblers, whose very name comes from this, its favorite food plant. Even in the rain their little golden rumps gleamed brightly, fitting indeed, on an island where pirates had reputedly buried gold.

Bald Eagles and Wild Turkeys, two winged kings! On the island is one of the few completely pure strains of native Wild Turkey left in the South, and these Wild Turkeys were "firsts" in the life-lists of many of the visiting bird-folk, including the writer, who had seen penned "wild turkeys" but never one actually in the wild. On a tall tree just off the "Old Fort Road" was the Bald Eagle's nest which Mr. Mellinger pointed out. He had seen the two young rearing their heads above the nest.

This "Old Fort Road" is a part of the famous and picturesque "seven-mile loop" and is the most interesting one of the island, passing both fresh and salt water ponds, and by the remains of the old tabby-work fort (made of oyster shells) near the mouth of Jack's Creek, where the provincial government had established a look-out on the island in 1717, then on to Moccasin Trail and Lake, which is the choice spot to see ducks. Here, in a heavy downpour, beneath great arches of live oaks with their swaying moss, through the binoculars we saw the Canvas-backs, their white backs glistening in the rain, and several other species of ducks. This was indeed a "memory picture" that all of us will cherish forever in our "rosary of memories" of living bird pictures.

Though a "select group of Pileated Woodpeckers" had been promised those who might miss the boat (everybody made it, though) the pileated were sought on the island by the eager birders. Not all of us saw these great woodpeckers, which proved

a bit elusive, but everyone did see the conspicuous holes they make in dead trees for their nesting cavities.

Besides the birds there were, of course, many deer, the large fox squirrels, which were new to some of the visitors, alligators (most of them still deep in the mud), and Carolina otters. In fact, the island is a haven for wildlife. During the fishing season there are said to be channel bass, trout, whiting, croaker, sheepshead, spot, yellowtail, and other Atlantic seaboard fish.

The island part of this great Refuge is operated under the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with Mr. E. O. Mellinger, an outstanding wildlife specialist, in charge. Mrs. Mellinger makes a charming and efficient hostess at Dominick House. Though but fourteen members could be accommodated with rooms and meals, the others were invited to come, being given the water trip transportation and using the house for headquarters, provided they brought their own sleeping bags and food. Coffee was furnished, and the Mellingers, graciously allowed the use of their kitchen and equipment for the preparation of the "indoor camper's" meals.

Noticeable indeed was the good fellowship and sportsmanship of this crowd, with its wide range of ages. Everyone was friendly, everyone tried to help the other fellow. Those who had rooms and baths (and they got them in order of their reservations being sent in) shared their facilities with the others. The great living room with its immense fire-place, was headquarters for the group, and much drying out of wet clothes was done by the fire-place and radiators, for the birders were constantly going in and out, in spite of the rain. At night, this great room became the dormitory of the women campers, and the sleeping bags in rows on the floor in front of the fire, resembled giant cocoons.

Birds seen: Horned Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, American Bittern, Mallard, Black Duck, Gadwall, Baldpate, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Ring-necked Duck, Canvas-back, Lesser Scaup, Buffle-head, Old Squaw, scoter (kind not decided) Ruddy Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Bald Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Duck Hawk, Wild Turkey, Sora Rail, Florida Gallinule, Coot, Oyster Catcher, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Red-backed Sandpiper, Dowitcher, Marbled Godwit, Forster's Tern, Black Skimmer, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Phoebe, Blue Jay, Crow, Fish Crow, Carolina Chickadee, House Wren, Marsh Wren (undecided which one), Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, White-eyed Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Myrtle Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Maryland Yellow-throat, Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Boat-tailed Grackle, Cardinal, Goldfinch, Red-eyed Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Chipping Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

News of the Local Clubs

HICKORY BIRD CLUB: Despite unusual weather conditions, the club gathered for the regular monthly meeting, on Thursday evening, Feb. 12, at the home of Mrs. M. L. Reynolds. Mrs. Alex Warlick was associate hostess, and the program was in charge of Miss Minnie Gwaltney, who discussed the nesting habits of sparrows, cardinals, and buntings. The round table discussions brought forth many interesting observations of various birds that have come to the feeding stations during the snows. National Audubon Society check lists were distributed for keeping records.

of the various birds which the members observed. The official notice was read confirming the Hickory Bird Club's affiliation with the North Carolina Bird Club.

The Hickory Bird Club sponsored a bird house contest, from Feb. 21 to March 6, open to all registered Boy Scouts in Catawba county, with Brooks M. Todd serving as public relations chairman for the project.

The March meeting was held on the evening of the 11th, at the home of Miss Garnett Launey, with the discussion led by the club president, J. W. Clinard, whose theme was the Warbler family, an American group of some 150 species and sub-species, named from the European warblers, not on account of their song, but on account of similarity of plumage. This was one of the series of discussions, emphasizing particularly the nesting habits of various groups of birds. A moving picture will be shown at the April meeting, scheduled to be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Warlick.

LENOIR AUDUBON CLUB: A regular meeting was held on Tuesday evening, March 2, at the home of the president, Miss Margaret Harper. The members were entertained by a description of land and water birds seen by Mrs. C. S. Warren on a trip which Mr. and Mrs. Warren recently took through Georgia and Florida. This was followed by an interesting round table discussion.

PIEDMONT BIRD CLUB: Spring count for the Greensboro region is planned for Saturday May 1. A camping trip to Hanging Rock State Park, is planned for Saturday and Sunday, May 15-16.

FEEDING STATION TO RIVAL "WINGS AT MY WINDOW"

At long last, Maurice Stimson, retired, has consented to beckon our bird friends to his door on a grander scale than before. Many thousands of them already know they have a friend indeed, tucked away deep in the Brushy Mountains, in a humble log cabin, on Route 2, nine miles above Taylorsville, N. C., near Three-Forks Church. He has given up all claims to his drug store in Statesville and all ideas of another trip around the world. He has made the global trip seventeen times, visiting more than thirty countries, and can talk with first-hand knowledge of the birds in and near Saigon and Rangoon, as he can of his native North Carolina birds.

Now this care of his bird visitors has outgrown his ability to feed and shelter them, as was the experience of Ada Govan, up in the New England hills. We can help in this without spending any money. Simply send to Maurice Stimson, Rt. 2. Taylorsville, N. C., any and all old shoes, hats, coats, dresses, or anything that can be sold to these mountain people, and he will turn all into cash and raise and buy sunflower seed, suet, peanuts, etc., to delight the palates of all comers. Maurice will report occasionally how the project is coming along.

Mr. Stimson was recognized by both the late Brimleys—H. H. and Dr. C. S.—as an outstanding authority on birds. He has been keeping records since 1895, and can give you the correct data as to when and where each bird is to be found, whether it is the Henslow's Sparrow, in its outlandish twisted, awkward flight, or the Crested Flycatcher in its search for a snake skin for its nest. Maurice has stalked the Louisiana Water Thrush, and has found out how this enigmatic Pharaoh of the bird tribe got those large mud-soaked leaves to its nest. Maurice and Sam Price, his helper, watched for days last April as this Water Thrush floated these heavy oak leaves down the small stream a few yards from his front door. When they would lodge

on a root, the "thrush"—really a warbler—was there to give the gentle touch to float them to the landing, whence she dragged them backwards up to the nest under the roots of a beech tree. Would that each of you could have been with me on April 28th, as Maurice and Sam and I walked down to the nest where the Louisiana Water Thrush was setting. In spite of our loud talking, and spite of Sam's brandishing the large stick which he always carried, the Water Thrush remained on the nest, while we three sat across the tiny springlet, not five feet from the nest, with Sam pointing with his stick to show the beautiful markings around the eyes and neck. Maurice said that this confidence was due to the fact that each day they had watched this unusual building process and so had established a mutual understanding.

W. G. TEMPLETON, Statesville, N. C.

COURTSHIP OF THE CARDINAL

Just as I entered the woods, there was a flash before me; and, on a twig, a little gray bird alighted, while in precipitate pursuit came a flaming wonder of red—he is blood red because he is the bravest, gayest, most ardent lover of the whole woods—and in a burst of excited trills, broken whistles, and imploring gestures, perched beside her.

Then I witnessed a cardinal bird declare his love, a sight so lovely and so rare it is vouchsafed to few mortals to behold. The red bird twisted, whistled, rocked, tilted, and trilled; and the gray sat demurely watching him as if only half convinced that he really meant it. The gay lover began at the beginning and said it all over again with more impassioned gestures than before; and then he edged in, touched, and softly stroked her wing with his beak. She appeared startled, but did not fly.

So again the fountain of half whistled, half trilled notes bubbled with the acme of pleading intonation, and this time he leaned and softly kissed her as she reached her bill for the caress. Then she fled in headlong flight while the streak of flame darted after her.

J. WESTON CLINARD.

North Carolina's Type Forms

B. RHETT CHAMBERLAIN, Charlotte, N. C.

Writing in 1916, the late Arthur T. Wayne, State Ornithologist for South Carolina, (Contributions from the Charleston Museum, III, a list of the Avian Species for which the Type Locality is South Carolina; 1917), listed seventy-six species of birds as types originally described from that state. Upon re-reading Mr. Wayne's paper recently it occurred to me that readers of *The Chat* would be interested in a list of birds having North Carolina as their type locality.

Unfortunately the similarity of the North and South Carolina lists hardly extends beyond the titles. South Carolina's seventy-six birds has doubtless increased by several since 1916, while North Carolina's score, up to and including the Twentieth Supplement of the A.O.U. Check List published in July, 1945, is eight. The explanation is quite simple. As early

as 1722 the able English naturalist, Mark Catesby, went to South Carolina and spent several years there describing and figuring the birds and animals he found. His accounts of his travels, (The Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands; 1731), indicate clearly that he never reached North Carolina. Fifty-seven of Catesby's birds are in South Carolina's list of types. Seven others were described for the first time by Audubon in his Ornithological Biography (1831-1839).

Of the eight species that make up North Carolina's list of types, none was recorded earlier than 1886. In that year William Brewster, the famed Massachusetts ornithologist, published a list of 120 species of birds that he observed or collected in the mountains of western North Carolina. In that list the Mountain Vireo and the Carolina Junco appear as North Carolina's earliest described type species. Nine years later Dr. Elliot Coues described a new Black-throated Blue Warbler and named it after its discoverer, John S. Cairns of Weaverville, N. C. Cairns found his warbler in Buncombe County. To date he is the only North Carolina native to succeed in adding to the state list a bird not previously known to science.

The remaining five North Carolina types were noted by Messrs. Batchelder, Bishop, Burleigh, and Oberholser, all eminent ornithologists connected with the U. S. Biological Survey, or northern museums.

North Carolina types, representing seven families, follow:

Appalachian Chickadee—*Parus atricapillus practicus* Oberholser. *Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington*, 50:220, Dec. 28, 1937. Type locality: Mount Guyot, 6,500 feet altitude, Great Smoky Mountains.

Southern Creeper—*Certhia familiaris nigrescens* Burleigh. *Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington*, 48:62, May 3, 1935. Type locality: Mount Mitchell, altitude 6,500 feet.

Southern Winter Wren—*Nannus hiemalis pullus* Burleigh. *Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington*, 48:61, May 3, 1935. Type locality: Mount Mitchell, altitude 6,500 feet.

Southern Robin—*Turdus migratorius achrusterus* Batchelder. *Poc. New Engl. Zool. Club*, 1:104, March 6, 1900. Type locality: Raleigh.

Mountain Vireo—*Vireo solitarius altilcola* Brewster. *Auk*, III, (1):111, Jan. 1886, Type locality: Highlands, Macon County.

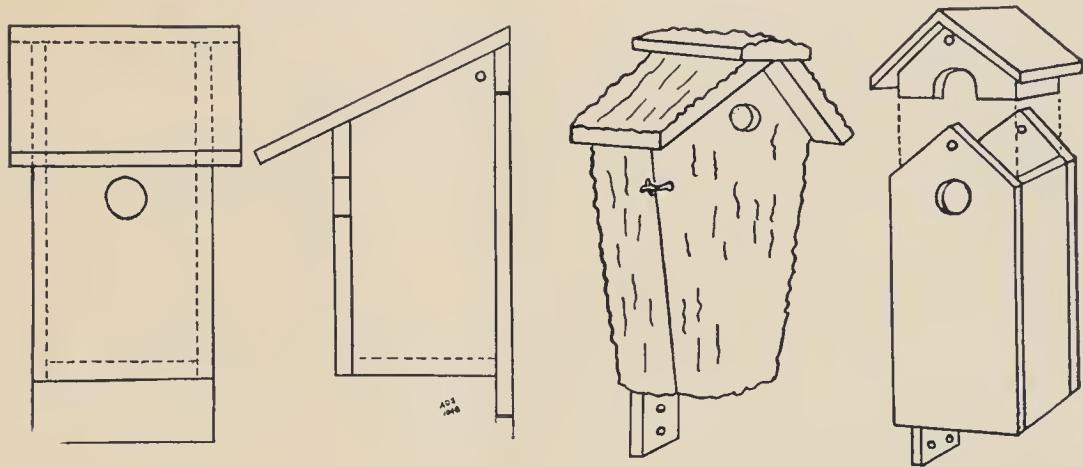
Cairns's Warbler—*Dendroica caerulescens cairnsi* Coues. *Auk*, XIV, (1):96, Jan., 1897. Type locality: Cragg Mountains, Buncombe County.

Southern Sharp-tailed Sparrow—*Ammospiza caudacuta diversa* Bishop. *Auk*, 18:269, July, 1901. Type locality: Wanchese, Roanoke Island, Dare County. In connection with this bird it is interesting to note that while it was not at once accepted by A.O.U. and was not included in the 1931 list, it has since been granted full status. (See: Wetmore and Lincoln, *Auk*, 49, 1932, p. 231, and Montagna, *Wils. Bull.*, 54, 1942, p. 110-112.)

Carolina Junco. *Junco hyemalis carolinensis* Brewster. *Auk*, III, (1):108, Jan., 1886. Type locality: Black Mountain, Buncombe County.

Building Proper Homes for Your Bird Neighbors

Many birds have been left homeless by the cutting of old dead and hollow trees. The good old days of rail fences furnished for Bluebirds many suitable homes, not available to present day Bluebirds in an age of wire fences and steel fence posts, and tree surgeons. Bluebirds and other kinds of birds that normally nest in hollow cavities in trees, are mainly very beneficial species, and many of them may with little effort be attracted as enjoyable paying guests to your yard or garden or farm, by suitable provision of water, food, protection, and nesting boxes. The accompanying sketches show some simple and practical designs for bird homes. With modifications in size according to the table given below, the designs are suitable for homes for many of our best bird citizens.



Suitable material is $3/8$ inch, $1/2$ inch, or $3/4$ inch white pine, cedar, redwood, poplar, or other soft wood which is easy to work. Thicker material makes a cooler home for the birds. Use $1\frac{1}{2}$ or $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch box or finish nails. Painting is not necessary, though new wood may be painted or stained some dull tint, dull brown, green, or gray. If painted, they should be put up early to get rid of the paint odor. The houses should be rainproof, and should be provided with a small drain hole in the bottom. The top or a side should be removable or hinged, not merely for examination or for banding the young birds, but also for the removal of eggs of Starlings and English Sparrows, and for removing the old nests and thorough cleaning after each brood and at the end of the season. Cross-ventilation should be provided by some small holes or rain-protected slits near the top. Gourds which are so commonly used in some sections for Purple Martins, may also be used for Bluebirds and Wrens. A hollow or hollowed out tree trunk, cut the right length, closed at top and bottom with a piece of slab or plank, and provided with an entrance hole of the proper size, will attract chickadees and titmice, and, if large enough, will house flickers and other woodpeckers. Build each house for some definite species, and do not make the hole too large. One important thing is to have the entrance hole near the top (except for Purple Martins) and the right size for the birds you desire. In the deeper nesting boxes the inside surface of the front should be roughened, or cleated, to help the young reach the entrance. Perches at the entrance are probably of more use to intruders, than to the rightful occupants. Some fine chips or shavings may be left in the bottom of woodpecker houses. Four inches or more of sawdust or shavings may be left in the houses for Wood Ducks.

Following is a table of sizes of nesting boxes for various species that may use them in this region.

Species	Floor— inside (inches)	Depth (inches)	Height of Hole from Floor (inches)	Diameter of Hole (inches)	Height from ground (feet)
Bluebird	4½x4½	8	6	1½	4-12
House Wren	4x4	6-8	1 to 6	1	6-10
Carolina Wren	4x4	6-8	1 to 6	1⅛	6-10
Chickadee	4x4	6-8	5 to 7	1⅛	8-15
Tufted Titmouse	4x4	8-10	6 to 8	1¼	6-15
Nuthatch	4x4	8-10	6 to 8	1¾	12-20
Crested Flycatcher	6x6	8-10	6 to 8	2	8-20
Flicker	7x7	16-18	14 to 16	2½	6-20
Downy Woodpecker	6x6	8-12	8	1¼	9-12
Hairy Woodpecker	6x6	12-15	9 to 12	1½	12-20
Purple Martin	6x6	6	1	2½	15-20
Robin	6x8	8	Sheltered platform		6-15
Phoebe	4x7	6	Sheltered platform		6-15
Wood Duck	10x10	24	16	4	10-15

Bird houses placed on posts will be most frequently used. Birds seem to show some preference for nesting boxes facing toward the south. If nesting boxes are to be placed in trees, it is desirable that tree guards be erected to protect against squirrels and cats. The boxes should be securely attached and should be put up early in the year. January is not too early to put up Bluebird boxes. Avoid dense woods and deep shaded areas. Select a location next to an open space, with perhaps a slight protection of shade. Chickadees have taken over a nesting box nailed up beside our kitchen door.

Do not place bird homes too close together, since most birds set up territorial rights and drive others of their species from their domain. Boxes for Wood Ducks should be nailed to a large tree, 10 or more inches in diameter, 10 to 15 feet above the ground, with no branches immediately adjacent, and near to the water; or they may be placed on pipes or poles in the water, which will eliminate usage by squirrels or mice.

Here is a list of three pamphlets, one or more of which you might find useful if you wish further suggestions. (1) "Bird Houses," by Roger Tory Peterson, Circular No. 29, published by the National Audubon Society, 1000 Fifth Avenue, New York 28, N. Y., for 5 cents a copy. (2) "Homes for Birds," U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Conservation Bulletin No. 14, may be secured from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., for 10 cents a copy. (3) "Bird Houses, Baths and Feeding Shelters," by Edmund J. Sawyer, probably still available from the Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, at 20 cents a copy.

That your boxes are not used the first year is not necessarily an indication that they are improperly built or located. When your bird neighbors do finally take up the home you have provided, you will have many enjoyable opportunities of observing, and possibly photographing their doings. By all means keep a record, with dates and other data on your observations of the nest building, singing and courtship, defense of area against other birds, laying, hatching, feeding the young, the time when the young leave the nest, and other interesting happenings which you observe.

A. D. S.

CONSTITUTION OF NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

(NOTE: This copy includes all official changes and additions to Oct. 30, 1942.)

ARTICLE I. Name and Objects

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the North Carolina Bird Club.

Section 2. The purpose of this Club shall be the study and protection of birds, and the education of our people as to the value of birds.

Section 3. All current data which in the opinion of the Editor or Executive Committee is worthy of permanent record shall be published whenever practicable in a publication of the Club, which shall be known as **The Chat**.

Section 4. The Club will also promote the establishment of local subsidiary groups in the several sections of the State.

Section 5. The Club may also co-operate with State and Federal Authorities in bringing about better enforcement of all existing laws, both State and Federal, which protect bird life.

ARTICLE II. Membership

Section 1. Any person who is interested in the study of birds may be elected to membership by the Club or the Executive Committee upon written endorsement by two members.

Section 2. There shall be four classes of members: Ordinary members, paying one dollar a year; Sustaining members, paying five dollars a year; Contributing members, paying twenty-five dollars a year; and Life members, paying a lump sum of one hundred dollars, or four consecutive annual payments of twenty-five dollars.

Section 3. All dues for the ensuing year shall be payable January first. Members in arrears shall be dropped from the mailing list of **The Chat**; and shall be dropped from the roll at the end of the year, provided such member has been sent two notices of delinquency with interval of not less than two months.

ARTICLE III. Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Club shall be President, three Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor of **The Chat**. The duties of each shall be those usually pertaining thereto. These officers, together with two elected from the Club at large, shall constitute the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Nominations for officers shall be made by a Nominating Committee appointed by the President at the opening of the Annual Meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor.

Section 3. Vacancies in the staff of officers shall be filled by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IV. Meetings

Section 1. An Annual Meeting shall be held each spring at a time and place to be selected by the Executive Committee. Other meetings may be called by the Executive Committee, but only such business shall be transacted at a call meeting as is stated in the call for it. All members shall be notified at least thirty days in advance of each regular or call meeting, and the members present at such meeting shall constitute a quorum thereof.

ARTICLE V. Accounts

Section 1. A Committee of two members shall be appointed by the President at the beginning of each annual meeting whose duty is shall be to audit the accounts of the Treasurer.

ARTICLE VI. Amendments

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any annual meeting, or special meeting called for that purpose, by a two-thirds majority of members present, provided the amendment has been submitted to the Executive Committee, and copies sent to all members one month prior to the meeting at which it is to be voted upon.

ARTICLE VII. By-Laws

Section 1. By-laws may be adopted or repealed at any annual meeting or special meeting by a majority vote of the members present.

BY-LAWS

1. As the different classes of membership are dependent merely on the dues paid, any member may shift from one class to another by increasing or decreasing his or her dues.

Field Notes and News

PURPLE FINCHES AT GOLDSBORO, N. C.: Two Purple Finches, 1 male and 1 female or immature, were observed at close range (4 ft.), Feb. 21, at Goldsboro. The two birds, in company with 23 Cedar Waxwings, were feeding on privet berries.

METZ BIZZELL, Goldsboro, N. C.

HORNS LARKS AND PIPITS AT GOLDSBORO, N. C.: On Feb. 11th, 20 Horned Larks, along with about 50 Pipits were observed at the Goldsboro city airport. Other reports indicate additional flocks of both species in this vicinity during the previous three weeks.

BOB WOLFF

HORNS LARKS AT RALEIGH: On Feb. 1, a flock of seven Horned Larks was observed on the snow at Raleigh, N. C. Their characteristic head markings and the "horns" were distinctly visible, and the birds were uttering soft "tinkling" notes as they ran about searching for bits of food. No specimens were collected, so the sub-species was not determined.

SANDY McCULLOCH

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH, N. C.; Observed Feb. 22, from causeway to Wrightsville Beach: Common Loon, 3, Red-throated Loon, 75; Horned Grebe; Pied-billed Grebe; Gannet, 38; American Egret; Louisiana Heron, Little Blue Heron; Scaup Duck; Bufflehead; Oyster Catcher; Semi-palmated Plover; Black-bellied Plover; Killdeer; Red-backed Sandpiper, 40.

FRANKLIN ANDERSON, R. L. WOLFF

BEAUFORT-MOREHEAD CITY REGION: Observed Feb. 14, at South End of Shackleford Banks, approximately 500 Cormorants. Observed Feb. 15, between Harker's Island and Shackleford Banks, approximately 200 Red-breasted Mergansers. Local people reported that ducks were very scarce during this winter period, fewer than ever before in the memory of the old-timers.

DICK BOREN, W. M. CRAVEN, R. L. WOLFF

WILMINGTON, N. C. A pair of Olive-backed Thrushes were seen on Nov. 16, by John Funderburg, Mary Baker, Cecil Appleberry, and myself. Were observed at close range, with good glasses for perhaps fifteen minutes. Definitely not Hermit Thrushes. Also saw an immature Bald Eagle, a Bald-pate drake, and a flock of Canada Geese. Hope these geese are wintering here. They are feeding in fields and sleeping on Big Island.

EDNA LANIER APPLEBERRY.

RED-THROATED LOON IN INLAND NORTH CAROLINA: "Birds of North Carolina," 1942 edition, p. 4, cites T. L. Quay's observation of a bird of this species at Raleigh, N. C., December 1, 1938, as the sole inland record for North Carolina. Recently, in checking over Wilson Bulletin reprints, I noticed that Dr. H. C. Oberholzer has recorded (No. 106, March 1919) an immature bird, examined by him in 1906, "Killed a year or two before, exact date unknown, on the French Broad River, near Biltmore, North Carolina. . . ."

E. B. CHAMBERLAIN, The Charleston Museum, Charleston, S. C.

DEAD FOX SKIN ANNOYS BLUE JAYS: I have just witnessed an interesting and amusing incident concerning this neighborhood. Earlier in the day I gave an old fox skin to some of the boys in the block and had thought no more about it until this incident occurred. I have my workshop behind the house, near a red oak thicket, so

when I heard a number of Blue Jays giving their alarm call and continue giving it, I stepped out to see if they had spied a cat or snake. As it turned out, they had seen neither, but were clustered around the fox skin which the lads had draped over a bush. The Jays were greatly excited and kept up their screeching for over an hour. Every time the wind would shake the bush they would fly into a screaming rage, unmistakably taking the skin to be a live fox. While I stood there—within five feet of the place where they were so engrossed in teasing the skin, fifteen English Sparrows, two Brown Thrashers, and a Mockingbird came up and after teasing half-heartedly for a second or so, left the scene. Now these birds are accustomed to seeing deer scalps and various birds and skins airing in my yard and often see mounted wildcats, foxes, and hawks, but this is the first time I have ever seen them show any alarm or anger at the sight of a skin. Perhaps they didn't have much to do and decided to have a little sport.

(May 27, 1947.)

JOHN FUNDERBURG, Wilmington, N. C.

BREVARD, N. C. (Count over 5-mile radius including Forest Hills, Hunter Farm, French Broad River valley, Sugar Loaf Mountain. Open farmland, 40 pct; meadows, orchards, and pastures, 30 pct; deciduous woodlands, 15 pct; shrubby thickets, 15 pct.) Dec. 28, 1947; 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Fair; temp. 25°-40°F.; changing winds, 1-7 m.p.h.; ground covered with four day old snow, partially melted on sunny slopes and meadows, 2-4 inches deep in woods and shaded areas. Two observers together. Total hours, 9 on foot; total miles 8, on foot. Cooper's Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Flicker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Phoebe, 4; Blue Jay, 14; Crow, 14; Carolina Chickadee, 22; Tufted Titmouse, 19; Brown Creeper, 2; Carolina Wren, 15; Mockingbird, 2; Brown Thrasher, 1; Robin, 1; Hermit Thrush, 3; Bluebird, 10; English Sparrow, 15; Cardinal, 18; Purple Finch, 1; Goldfinch, 13; Towhee, 17; Slate-colored Junco, 58; Field Sparrow, 22; White-throated Sparrow, 53; Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, 47. *Total:* 26 species; 358 individuals. (Seen in area Dec. 22: Bobwhite, 7.) Observers: RACHEL ORR SCHEPKOWSKI, OLIVER ORR. *Note:* Our 1946 count for the same area included 1257 individuals representing 35 species. The weather was a significant factor in accounting for the reduced numbers this year.

LIVES OF MANY N. C. BIRDS SAVED DURING SNOWS: During late January and early February much of North Carolina was covered with snow and ice, the snow in some places well to the eastern part of the state being over a foot deep. Bird club members in numerous localities, with the aid of newspapers and radio broadcasts urged people to put out food and water for the birds. In the Charlotte area, hundreds of pounds of feed were distributed, and, according to newspaper accounts, an airplane was used to aid in the distribution. In Greensboro, one of the local seed stores, Hattaway's reported the sale of a ton of bird seed within seven days, and a representative of the Scott Seed Store reported the sale of between a ton and a ton and a half of bird seed within three weeks. J. W. Clinard, president of the Hickory Bird Club, reported that their club got good results from publicity through their local newspapers and radio station. Bob Wolff, Boy Scout executive at Goldsboro, reported that the Scouts distributed 350 packages of bird feed to homes in and around Goldsboro. In all, nearly two tons of feed were distributed in the Goldsboro region, which had an unusually heavy snowfall. The response to newspaper and radio appeals at Goldsboro was immediate; fully 50 per cent of the homes contacted by the Goldsboro Scouts told the boys that they were already feeding the birds.

A. D. S.

FRIENDLY CHIPPING SPARROWS RETURN: During the summer of 1947, Geo. Perrett made friends with a pair of Chipping Sparrows which nested in his

yard at Greensboro, carefully feeding them until they would, on occasion, take bits of proffered food from his hand. On March 21, 1948, he saw a pair of Chipping Sparrows, the first of the spring, in his yard. Some bits of Ritz crackers, their favorite food, brought the female immediately to George's feet. The male bird was more wary but by the next day he had overcome most of his fear and Perrett enjoyed a thrill which bird lovers will appreciate.

COWBIRD YOUNG AT GREENSBORO, N. C. On several days during the past July, I observed on the lawn of my home in Greensboro and in a neighboring yard, a Red-eyed Vireo feeding a young Cowbird which was much larger than the Vireo. No Vireo young were observed, and never more than one Vireo was seen. The Cowbird fed in an independent manner until the Vireo approached, when the young Cowbird would flutter very helplessly and beg for food from the tiny foster-parent.

OSCAR H. PARIS, JR.

WINDOM, YANCEY COUNTY, N. C. During the spring and summer of 1947 the Black-billed Cuckoo appeared to be in far greater abundance than in any other year in my memory. It made tremendous inroads on both the orchard-tent and the forest-tent caterpillars.

Our Christmas count, Dec. 27, showed an abundance of Song Sparrows, those hardy songsters that are here throughout the year. My observations, over a period of years, leads me to believe that there are 25,000 or more in Yancey County (area 298 square miles), and that this is our most abundant bird species, with the Field Sparrow a close rival. The Bob-white, however, has fared badly in this section during the past four or five years. It is my judgment that there are not more than one-fifth as many in Yancey County as there were five years ago. After considering various factors, I have concluded that predators, including man, are the biggest factor in the cataclysmic decline of this species. Lack of sufficient cover is another important factor. How desperately we need an enlightened and constructive policy and program of wildlife restoration, at least in this area of the state. It is just a small step from interest in birds to interest in other forms of living things.

JAMES HUTCHINS.

GREENSBORO, N. C. Some 1947 records—**Late Winter Residents:** Red-breasted Nuthatch (2), May 8; Myrtle Warbler (4), May 1; Pine Siskin, Apr. 24 (1); May 1 (5 feeding on dandelion seeds); May 11 (7); Junco, Apr. 1 (1); Fox Sparrow, Mch. 4 (Inez Coldwell). **Spring Migrants:** Solitary Sandpiper, May 8; Cape May Warbler, May 1 (3), May 8 (4), May 11; Black-throated Blue Warbler, May 6 (Mrs. F. H. Craft), May 18 (1, male, singing); Black-throated Green Warbler, May 6 (Mrs. F. H. Craft); Chestnut-sided Warbler, May 6 (Mrs. F. H. Craft), May 11 (at Dr. Wesley Taylor's Justamere Farm); Bay-breasted Warbler, May 6 (Mrs. F. H. Craft); Black-poll, May 6 (Mrs. F. H. Craft), May 16 (1, male); Palm Warbler (apparently Western), Mch. 11 (2, observed under very favorable conditions, Oscar H. Paris, Jr.); Western Palm Warbler, Apr. 4 (2, observed at 12 ft., Paris); Scarlet Tanager, May 6 (Mrs. F. H. Craft); Rose-breasted Grosbeak, May 6 (1, male, observer Etta Schiffman). **Summer Residents arrival:** Spotted Sandpiper, May 8; Chimney Swift, Mch. 28 (Oscar Paris); Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Apr. 24 (male and female); Crested Flycatcher, Apr. 24; Wood Pewee, May 1; (Wood Thrushes, on May 1, building nests, 4 observed in different localities starting nests and carrying nest material); Summer Tanager, Apr. 9 (1, male,

observer, Oscar Paris). **Summer Residents**, late records: Wood Thrush, Oct. 15 (Geo. A. Smith); Blue-headed Vireo, Sept 8—singing as in spring (Geo. A. Smith); Yellow-throated Warbler, Sept. 8 (Geo. A. Smith); Maryland Yellow-throat, Sept. 8 (Geo. A. Smith). **Fall Migrants**: Greater Yellow-legs and Lesser Yellow-legs, Oct. 26 (Geo. A. Smith); Pectoral Sandpiper, Sept. 21 (Oscar Paris and others); (Eastern) Dowitcher, Sept. 7 (1), Sept. 13 (2); Sept. 14 (2)—These birds, records of which are scarce in inland North Carolina, were observed by Oscar Paris and others, on Lake Jeanette (Richland Lake), the same locality where two specimens apparently the first taken in inland North Carolina, were taken on Aug. 30, 1945, by Larry Crawford (Cf. *The Chat*, 1945 Vol. X, No. 1, p. 19); Black Tern, Aug. 15 (Hugh Medford, Jr., Oscar Paris, A. D. Shaftesbury); Olive-backed Thrush, Oct. 14 (Mrs. F. H. Craft); Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Oct. 20 (3, singing—Geo. A. Smith). **Winter Resident arrivals**: Common Loon, Nov. 15 (3, on Lake Brant—John Carr, Tom Zapf, Oscar Paris); Pied-billed Grebe, Nov. 15 (on Lake Jeanette—Etta Schiffman, Carr, Paris, Zapf); Double-crested Cormorant, Nov. 15 (Lake Brant—Carr, Paris, Zapf), Dec. 13 (Lake Jeanette—Hugh Medford, Jr., and Oscar Paris), (see also 1947 Christmas Count); Mallard, Nov. 15 (Carr, Paris, Zapf); Black Duck, Nov. 15 (Carr, Paris, Zapf); Green-Winged Teal, Oct. 25 (Lake Descalia—Carr, Paris); Redhead, Nov. 29 (H. Bryant, Paris); Ring-necked Duck, Nov. 15 (Lake Brant—Carr, Paris, Zapf), Dec. 13 (22, Lake Jeannette—H. Medford, Jr., Oscar Paris); Canvas-back, Nov. 30 (1, Paris); Lesser Scaup, Nov. 30 (Paris); Bufflehead, Nov. 30 (3, Paris); Hooded Merganser, Nov. 29 (H. Bryant, Paris); American Merganser, Dec. 13 (5, H. Medford, Jr., Oscar Paris); Winter Wren, Oct. 20 (Geo. A. Smith); White-throated Sparrow, Oct. 18.

On Mch. 11th, Mrs. Edith Settan reported seeing a "white" Robin at the residence of Mrs. Mayme Hurley Wachter, 1002 Guilford Ave. On May 15, Kildeer were observed with 1 young, just off the nest. On Sept. 8, Mrs. Geo. A. Smith reported seeing a wild Turkey gobbler in dense woods at Starmount, which joins the western part of Greensboro. An unusual discovery was made on Feb. 17 (these dates are all for 1947), when Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Douglas reported seeing a Wood Thrush. (Mrs. Douglas started her bird study as a college student under T. Gilbert Pearson, and knows her birds.)

A. D. S.

TYRO BANDER AT ROCKY MOUNT, N. C., REPORTS: A very rank beginner as a bird bander, having received my license in August of last year, I have just completed my reports to the federal government and feel rather proud of them. During the past 10½ months I banded a total of 787 birds, as follows: Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Mourning Dove, 6; Blue Jay, 16; Carolina Chickadee, 8; Tufted Titmouse, 12; White-breasted Nuthatch, 6; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 1; Carolina Wren, 4; Mockingbird, 2; Catbird, 38; Brown Thrasher, 29; Robin, 1; Wood Thrush, 2; Hermit Thrush, 3; Bluebird, 10; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; *Orange-crowned Warbler*, 1; *Myrtle Warbler*, 212; Pine Warbler, 48; Summer Tanager, 5; Cardinal, 13; *Purple Finch*, 136; Red-eyed Towhee, 15; Junco, 60; *Chipping Sparrow*, 108; Field Sparrow, 2; White-throated Sparrow, 41. With one exception, all of these birds were caught in my back yard, in an area less than 100 feet square. The Sharp-shinned Hawk was caught by a friend a couple of blocks away. Thirteen of the birds were home grown and banded in the nest.

I started out with two traps, like none that I've heard or read about. They were two feeding stations, glassed in on three sides. To close the back I have an electrically operated black curtain, wrapped loosely about a light stick. I used a cheap door chime electro-magnet arranged so that the current would release a trigger

that holds the curtain. When this curtain falls, the birds flutter against the glass, though they might easily fly against the curtain and escape.

Since October, 1946, I have used regularly three traps secured from Gregory Gill, and they have proved highly successful. Early this year I obtained a copy of the Bird Bander's Manual from Mrs. Zora Jensen, our state bird club president and foremost bander in this state, and built a Baldwin type of trap which I placed over a shelf feeder on a tree. This year I also secured four Potter type traps from Mr. Jones, of Boone, Iowa. With this assortment I now believe I will be ready for the fall migration and should have a pretty good season next year.

My most unusual capture was the Orange-crowned Warbler, the only one known to have been reported from this section of the state. Out of 8 Chipping Sparrows banded last year, four returned this year; and out of 5 Catbirds, I recaptured three this spring.

(July 2, 1947.)

J. W. E. JOYNER

With the Editor

OBSERVERS PLEASE NOTE: B. R. Chamberlain has inherited the job of collecting data for the National Society's *Audubon Field Notes* for the inland area of the Carolinas. Notes for spring migration report, covering the period from April 1 to June 1, should be sent to: B. R. Chamberlain, 1320 Biltmore Drive, Charlotte, N. C. Send in your notes now.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO MEET MAY 15: The N. C. B. C. Executive Committee together with the Committee Chairmen will meet Saturday, May 15, at Morrow Mountain, in Stanly County. The meeting will begin at noon Saturday with a picnic lunch served by a group from the Mecklenburg Audubon Club. The business session will be called at 1:00 o'clock, and will probably end about 4:30 or 5:00 P.M., for those who have to leave. It is hoped that a quorum will be able to remain for sessions Saturday evening and Sunday morning, spending Saturday night at the ranger's camp.

MRS. WALL TO TEACH AT MAINE AUDUBON CAMP: Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, Treasurer of the N. C. B. C., Principal of Caldwell School at Greensboro, and holder of last summer's N. C. B. C. scholarship at the Maine Audubon Camp, has received an appointment as instructor for three months this summer at the National Audubon Society's Nature Camp at Medomac, on the coast of Maine. Mrs. Wall has had extensive training and experience in teaching and in specialized nature work and is eminently qualified to make a valuable contribution to the work of the Maine camp this summer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: The N. C. B. C. Editor and the Treasurer receive many interesting and pleasant personal notes in their correspondence with our widely distributed members. During recent months, several complimentary letters have been received from "old timers," charter members, who have been active in promoting the development and growth of the N. C. B. C. One such letter states, in part: "I am proud of the Chat and it constantly gets better and better. I was delighted to see the pictures of North Carolina's Grand Old Men on the March 1947 cover. It was a fine idea." An N. C. B. C. member writes to Margaret Wall, from Delaware: "I am enclosing a dollar, continuing membership in the N. C. B. C., but more especially to receive *The Chat*, since I am no longer near enough to attend even occasional meetings. But I like to hear of the Annual Trips, and the brief notes of the various clubs. I especially like the (often too brief) experiences of members with the birds, whether those rarely seen, or those one may enjoy every day. . . ."

New and Reinstated Members of N. C. B. C.

Mrs. D. R. Allen, 330 Irvin St., Reidsville
Osnond Barringer, Rt. 4, 2001 Wilmount
Rd., Charlotte

Mrs. Anne S. Benbow, 618 Hill St.,
Rocky Mount

Mrs. I. T. Bendall, Box 344, Reidsville

Mrs. J. B. Bernard, 301 Beall St., Lenoir

Miss Etta Vee Boone, Windom

Miss Clara Burt, 2218 Sarah Marks Ave.,
Charlotte 3

E. B. Chamberlain, The Charleston Mu-
seum, Charleston 16, S. C.

W. B. Clotsworthy, Jr., M. D., Duke
Hospital, Durham

Capt. Walter R. Cox, Dunnellon, Fla.

Miss Omara Daniel, Coltrane Hall, Roan-
oke Rapids

Mrs. C. R. Davis, Liberty

Miss Zeta C. Davidson, Rt. 1, North
Wilkesboro

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Greensboro

Mrs. Frank Fields, 1712 Spring Garden
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Lt. Col. Fred H. Gallup, 1800 Beverly
Dr., Charlotte 7

Mrs. T. L. Gardner, Box 956, Reidsville

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Chas. W. Griffin, Rt. 2, Westridge Rd.,
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Raleigh

Mrs. Thad Harrison, 2034 Sherwood Ave.,
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Miss Virginia W. Harrison, 658 Chestnut
St., Greensboro

Mrs. B. D. Hendrix, 1615 Oaklawn,
Charlotte

Mrs. W. A. Hill, 1904 Brice St., Greens-
boro

Miss Sidney Holmes, 315 McIver St.,
Greensboro

Mrs. W. Wilton Howard, 617 New York
Ave., Norfolk 8, Va.

J. Southgate Y. Hoyt, Box 54, Etna, N. Y.

Roosevelt Hughes, Windom

Mrs. George Hunt, Box 545, Reidsville

Charles Hutchins, Box 2505, Winston-
Salem

Gregory D. Ivy, Rt. 2, Greensboro

J. Ridley Jackson, 42 Woodvale Ave.,
Asheville

Julian W. Johnson, care State Museum,
Raleigh

Mrs. Ira Thomas Johnston, Jefferson

John H. Jopson, M.D., Rutherfordton

Mrs. W. H. Kilpatrick, 212 Queens Rd.,
Charlotte 7

Mrs. Fred R. Klenner, Box 1015, Reids-
ville

Mrs. R. G. Knight, Roanoke Rapids

Dr. R. S. Leinbach, 728 Queens Rd.,
Charlotte 7

Mrs. W. L. Long, 1338 12th St., Hickory

Chas. E. Lovin, Jr., 455 W. Harper Ave.,
Lenoir

Miss Ruth Lowder, 809 Jackson St.,
Roanoke Rapids

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S. A. McFalls, 214 N. Ridgeway Dr.,
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Mrs. S. A. McFalls, 214 N. Ridgeway Dr.,
Greensboro

Mrs. H. L. Medford, Box 1411, 830
Cornwallis Rd., Greensboro

Hugh L. Medford, Jr., 830 Cornwallis
Rd., Box 1411, Greensboro

Burt L. Monroe, Ridge Rd., Anchorage,
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Mrs. L. H. Moore, St. Pauls

Bob Morgan, 404 Church St., Farmville

Mrs. M. E. Motsinger, 1040 Arbor Rd.,
Winston-Salem

Miss Helen Myers, 210 Vance St., Lenoir

Nature Center, Martha Clark, Nature
Specialist, Danville Recreation Dept.,
Danville, Va.

Miss Elizabeth Oliver, Mount Olive

Dr. G. F. Parrott, Rt. 2, Kinston

Mrs. Carl H. Pegg, Chapel Hill

(Notification of correction or change of address should be sent to: Dr. Archie D. Shaftesbury, Editor, *The Chat*, W. C. U. N. C., Greensboro, N. C.)

LOCAL CLUBS AND THEIR OFFICERS

Arden, Rosscraggon Wood, Inc.: P—Harold B. Swope, Skyland; V-P—Dr. Leigh Robinson, Skyland; S-T—Mrs. W. H. Lashley, Royal Pines; Board of Governors—Dr. Graham Harden, Skyland; Miss Susan Sheppard, Skyland; Kenneth Carr, Skyland.

Asheville Bird Club: P—R. H. Rembert; V-P—Miss Margaret Decker; S—Mrs. M. F. Meredith, 10 Castle St.; T—Mrs. Francis E. Field.

Blowing Rock, Blowing Rock Audubon Club: P—Miss Lena Reeves; V-P—Mrs. Joe Winkler.

Boone Bird Club: P—Dr. Robert King; V-P—Mrs. W. M. Burwell; S-T—Miss Cora Jeffcoat.

Chapel Hill Bird Club: P—Mrs. Harold Walters; V-P—David Frey; S-T—Mrs. David Olson, Box 998; Publicity Chairman—Mrs. Horace D. Crockford.

Charlotte, Mecklenburg Audubon Club: P—Mrs. George C. Potter, 2111 Malverne Rd.; V-P—Mrs. H. W. Kilpatrick; S—Miss Connie Thigpen, 1215 Greenwood Cliff; T—Mrs. W. B. Simmons.

Durham, Duke-Durham Bird Club: P—Miss Bertha B. Hopkins, 506 Buchanan Road; S-T—Mrs. M. W. Johnson.

Greensboro, Piedmont Bird Club: P—Mrs. Floyd H. Craft; V-P—R. D. Douglas and Mrs. H. L. Medford; Rec. S—Miss Charlotte Dawley; Cor. S—Miss Ethel McNairy; T—Miss Sarah Lesley; Ex. Comm.—Officers and Mrs. W. C. Carr and Miss Etta Schiffman.

Guilford College, T. Gilbert Pearson Bird Club: P—Elizabeth Hare; V-P—J. G. Gilbert; S-T—Margery Pickett.

Henderson Bird Club: P—Mrs. A. W. Bachman; V-P—Mrs. T. C. Gill; S-T—Miss Agnes Pegram.

Hickory Bird Club: P—J. Weston Clinard; V-P—Mrs. George E. Bisanar; S-T—Mrs. Alex F. Vallotton, 1415 Eighth Ave.; Reporter—J. W. Clinard.

High Point, Catesby Bird Club: P—James R. Mattocks; S—Mrs. Chester C. Haworth; T—Mrs. John C. Siceloff.

Lenoir Audubon Club: P—Miss Margaret Harper; V-P—R. T. Greer; S-T—Mrs. R. T. Greer, Box 800.

Lumberton Bird Club: P—James Stephens, Jr.; V-P—Mrs. Henry McKinnon; S—Mrs. D. L. Whiting; T—Miss Lillian Whiting.

Mount Airy Bird Club: P—Mrs. J. Bruce Yokley; V-P—O. W. Kochitsky; S—Mrs. H. G. Long; T—Fred Johnson.

Raleigh Bird Club: P—Phillip H. Davis; V-P—W. B. Nesbit; S—Frank B. Meacham, N. C. State Museum; Ex. Comm.—Officers and Mrs. A. J. Skaale and G. M. Garren.

Roanoke Rapids Bird Club: P—Mrs. D. L. Wheeler; V-P—Miss Clara Hearne; S-T—Mrs. T. L. O'Briant, 538 Vance St.

Rocky Mount, Francis H. Craighill Bird Club: P—J. W. E. Joyner; V-P—The Rev. Gray Temple; S—Miss Dorothy Craighill; T—Miss Lilly Shearin; Members of Executive Committee—Mrs. Fairy Bandy and Mrs. J. W. E. Joyner.

Southern Pines Bird Club: P—Mrs. Cecil Robinson; V-P & S—Miss Louise Haynes, Box 660; T—Miss Norma Shiring; Rec. S—Mrs. Gordon Clark.

Statesville Audubon Club: P—Miss Nancy B. Eliason; V-P—Miss Grace Anderson; S—Mrs. Calhoun Ramsey; T—Mrs. Earl Davis.

Tryon Bird Club: P—G. H. Holmes; S-T—Katherine D. Hamilton.

Wilmington Bird Club: P—Mrs. Cecil Appleberry, 5 Lake Forest Parkway; V-P—John Funderburk; S—Mrs. Warwick R. Baker, 204 Kenwood Ave.; T—Charles F. Theobald.

Winston-Salem Bird Club: P—Henry Magie; S-T—Wm. S. Rothrock, 2434 Stockton St.; Directors—Charles H. Babcock, Thurmond Chatham, Jr., Richard J. Reynolds, II.

The Chat

BULLETIN OF CAROLINA BIRD CLUB



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The Chat

BULLETIN OF CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

DR. ARCHIE D. SHAFTESBURY, *Editor*

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CONTENTS

	Page
CAROLINA BIRD CLUB	37
The President's Message (or Three Challenges)	
— <i>B. R. Chamberlain</i>	38
Spring Field Trip to Wilmington a Grand Success— <i>A. D. S.</i>	39
News of the Local Clubs	40
Bird Club Organized at Greenville, S. C. — <i>May W. Puett</i>	40
“Chicky,” a Chickadee That Likes Ice Cream— <i>Mrs. Lester E. Snell</i>	41
How Long After Arrival Does a Bird Take to Lay Its Eggs?	
— <i>C. S. Brimley</i>	43
Thirty Nests to the Acre— <i>Joe Jones</i>	45
Migration—The Story of Birds Along the Flyways of the Skies	
— <i>Charlotte Hilton Green</i>	47
Observations on Nesting Grasshopper Sparrows in Stanly County, N. C	
— <i>John Trott, Jr.</i>	50
Field Notes and News	52
With the Editor	55
Notice of Fall Meeting	Inside Back Cover
Local Clubs and their Officers	Outside Back Cover

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

At an Executive Committee meeting held Saturday, May 15, 1948, at Morrow Mountain State Park, in Stanly County, N. C., the results of the recent membership poll on proposed names for the newly merged North Carolina Bird Club and the South Carolina Nature Group were counted, and the name "*Carolina Bird Club*" was selected. In the letters sent in by the members, the name Carolinas Bird Club also drew a considerable number of votes, and third place was taken by a write-in name, Bird Club of the Carolinas. The new name will be displayed on club stationery and advertising superimposed on an outline map of North Carolina and South Carolina.

New Constitution

The Consolidation of the North Carolina Bird Club with the South Carolina group necessitates some changes in the constitution. These changes are being formulated by the Merger Committee, H. T. Davis, Archie D. Shaftesbury, R. L. Weaver, and B. R. Chamberlain, chairman, in co-operation with the Committee on Incorporation, R. D. Douglas, chairman, as well as with representatives of the South Carolina groups; and the New Constitution will likely be circulated to the members in time to be voted on at the Fall meeting, which is scheduled for the first week-end in October, at Saluda, N. C.

New Editorial Board

Among forward steps adopted at the Executive Committee meeting, May 15, at Morrow Mountain, was the decision to divide up the work of *The Chat* and to extend somewhat its scope. To this end a new Executive Board was selected, each member of which was assigned a department in *The Chat*. Following is a list of the Departments, together with the names and addresses of the Editorial Board members to whom they have been assigned:

Conservation, State and National—Alexander Sprunt, Jr., The Crescent, Charleston 50, S. C.; *Education*—Richard L. Weaver, Box 1078, Chapel Hill, N. C.; *Life Histories and Ecology*—T. L. Quay, Zoology Dept., State College, Raleigh, N. C.; *Local Club News and Personal News*—B. R. Chamberlain, 1320 Biltmore Dr., Charlotte, N. C. The hope was expressed that each department would have some space in practically every issue of *The Chat*. It is planned that certain articles, notably those of a general educational nature, will also be reprinted and made available for

wider distribution. Requests or material for the various departments should be sent directly to the department heads.

New Membership Chairman

Robert Overing, Route 4, Raleigh, N. C., has been appointed Membership Chairman, to replace Mrs. Charles M. Swart who recently resigned. Inquiries for material and information regarding new memberships should be sent to Mr. Overing. (Membership applications, with the money or checks should be sent directly to: Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, Treasurer, 6 Springdale Court, Greensboro.)

The President's Message (or Three Challenges)

CHALLENGE ONE: In a letter dated April 30, 1948, Mr. Clyde Patton, Executive Director of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, called upon our club to help their organization in the selection of Deputy Protectors. Quoting in part from Mr. Patton's letter:

"Inasmuch as your organization is made up of men and women who form a nucleus of interest among the wildlife lovers in North Carolina, it is felt that you can render valuable assistance through your local organization in soliciting the services of high type men in these local communities who are conscientiously willing to serve as deputy protectors for all wildlife in North Carolina. The members of your organization are requested, therefore, to recommend such men to their regular county game protectors for such appointment. The game protector, in turn, will recommend such deputy appointments to us for consideration, approval, and appointment.

"Another project which I should like to present for your consideration is one in which the membership of your local club would actively participate in a program of soliciting and obtaining the cooperation of all peace officers in their community; such as sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, police officers, constables and others. Section nine of our present game law constitutes these peace officers as deputy game protectors, and as such the local citizens whom they represent may rightfully expect their participation and help in enforcing our laws protecting wildlife. The support of the local units of your organization on this project would be a boon to our wildlife enforcement program."

If we have ever been challenged, this is it. The compliment is not concealed. The wildlife commission, representing both sides, is asking us to help them do the job right. I ASK THE EARNEST COOPERATION OF ALL OF YOU IN MEETING THEM MORE THAN HALF WAY IN THIS IMPORTANT WORK.

CHALLENGE TWO: By resolutions adopted at Charleston, and by your action at the Annual Meeting on May 20th, last, birders of the two Carolinas are banded together. There is new territory to work in and new friendships ahead. With terrain including the highest mountain in eastern

United States and the rich basins of the Roanoke, Tar, Neuse, Cape Fear, Pee Dee, Santee, and Edisto Rivers, fanning out upon five hundred miles of South Atlantic beaches, only we ourselves need stop us from becoming a nonpareil among bird clubs.

CHALLENGE THREE: A Fable—Once upon a time a pair of meadowlarks raised a brood in an oats field. In time the grain formed and ripened and the farmer came to look over his crop. "It's ready to harvest," he said. "In the morning I will get the neighbors to come over and help get it in." All excited, the young larks urged their parents to move to another field. "Not yet," said the parents, "Not yet." Sure enough, no one came to cut the oats. A few days later the farmer came again and looked over his field. "Oh," said he, "It's getting too ripe. In the morning I'll come and cut it myself." "Fly now," said the parent larks, "When a man depends upon himself for work he will do it."

(Charlotte, N. C., May 5, 1948.)

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN.

Spring Field Trip to Wilmington a Grand Success

The 1948 Spring Field Trip to Wilmington and Wrightsville Beach was a grand success in every way, and Mrs. Cecil Appleberry and the Wilmington Bird Club are to be congratulated and thanked for treating the visitors to a grand week-end that will long be remembered. Nearly 150 N.C.B.C. members registered for the meeting and most of them arrived at the headquarters at Ocean Terrace Hotel, on Wrightsville Beach, in time for the Friday evening session, on April 23rd.

The Friday evening meeting was called to order by the new N. C. B. C. President, B. R. Chamberlain, Charlotte, and was turned over to N. C. B. C. Vice-President, Mrs. Cecil Appleberry, Wilmington, who was chairman of the Spring Field Trip. Charles F. Theobald, of the Wilmington Bird Club, welcomed the visitors, and Dr. Archie D. Shaftesbury, Greensboro, made the response. President B. R. Chamberlain gave a statement of general plans for the future. Talks were given by two N. C. B. C. members from Charleston, South Carolina, Alexander Sprunt, Jr., representative of the National Audubon Society, and E. B. Chamberlain, of the Charleston Museum. Both Sprunt and E. B. Chamberlain were enthusiastic about the recent decision of N. C. B. C. to merge with the South Carolina nature groups at Charleston and Columbia. Chamberlain mentioned the book in preparation on the birds of South Carolina, and showed some of the paintings being prepared by a new bird artist, J. H. Dick, Dixie Plantation, Charleston, S. C. Mrs. O. F. Jensen, retiring N.C.B.C. President, who is leaving North Carolina, made her farewell remarks, and Mrs. Charlotte Hilton Green, Raleigh, presented her with a gift from the club, one of the first copies of the forthcoming South Carolina bird book. Following the speeches, the group was amused by games and stunts, and prizes were distributed.

The real field trip work began Saturday morning, April 24, before breakfast, with observation of shore birds along the sound and ocean beaches. After breakfast, the entire group visited the beautiful Airlee Gardens, through the courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Corbett. It was here that the rare find of the trip was made, a couple of the uncommon Swainson's Warblers. Morning and afternoon boat trips

were made along the Inland Waterway to see shore birds. The weather was perfect and the boat trips were fully enjoyed.

On Saturday afternoon the group loaded in cars and visited the McAllister home on Masonboro Sound, stopping on the way as guests of Mrs. Donald Parsley, to see the gallery of Audubon prints in the central hall at Live Oaks, the Parsley home, which was designed by Bacon, who designed the Lincoln Memorial. Several other localities of interest, including Wilmington's Greenfield Lake, were visited during the afternoon.

On Saturday evening the group gathered again at Wrightsville Beach in the lobby of the Ocean Terrace Hotel, to check the bird lists—a total of 143 species was counted for Wilmington's spring census, and also to see John Trott's candid shots of Mrs. Appleberry, and some very fine moving pictures of birds taken by Bill Joyner at his home in Rocky Mount.

Many visitors remained for at least a part of Sunday, and sunned on the beach or visited interesting places in and around Wilmington, including the beautiful Orton Plantation, located on the road to Southport.

A. D. S.

News of the Local Clubs

MOUNT AIRY BIRD CLUB: The Mount Airy Bird Club had a fifteen minute program on the Granite City Radio Station WPA2, at 4:00 P.M. on Sunday, April 4.

HICKORY BIRD CLUB: At the regular monthly meeting, on Thursday evening, April 8, a sound moving picture, "High Over the Borders," was shown. This picture shows with actual photographs and with animated drawings the various fly-ways between North America and South America and indicates the unity of the two continents of the western hemisphere. Miss Minnie Gwaltney read a paper, prepared by Mrs. Menzies who was unable to be present, on "Vireos and their Nesting Habits." J. W. Clinard described the recent annual meeting of North Carolina Bird Club, held at Chapel Hill. The meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Warlick.

The regular May meeting was held on Thursday evening, May 13, at the home of Dr. and Mrs. H. D. Althouse, when Miss Garnett Launey presented an interesting paper on "Nesting Habits of Woodpeckers." Roundtable discussion centered around observations of nesting birds and their young. Committees were appointed to prepare the new year book, and plan the field trip for the June meeting. It is planned to hold a picnic for the July meeting, usually suspended. Attention was called to the moving picture, "State News Number Three," which is to be shown at the Carolina Theatre, Hickory, May 27, 28, and 29, at the request of the club president, J. Weston Clinard.

Bird Club Organized at Greenville, South Carolina

On Friday evening, April 23, a few of the Greenville, S. C., bird enthusiasts met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Louis C. Tolleson, 76 Latimer Street, for the purpose of considering the organization of a bird club. After discussion, it was felt that service could be rendered by organized planning and study. Miss May Puett was asked to serve as temporary chairman, and Dr. W. H. Powe, Jr., acted as temporary secretary. The following were elected unanimously as officers: President, Miss May W. Puett; Vice-President, P. M. Jennes; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Louis C. Tolleson.

The fourth Friday night in each month has been selected as meeting time, and the May meeting will be held at the home of Dr. W. H. Powe, Jr., 13 Victory

Avenue. Since this is the migration season, reports from field trips will make up the program for the May meeting.

Field trips will be the main interest of the members, and it is the intent of the club to tabulate the members' reports and keep a record of them. It is also planned to work with schools and assist in the formation of youth groups for bird study. Necessary committees will be selected as needed.

MAY W. PUETT, President

“CHICKY,” A CHICKADEE THAT LIKES ICE CREAM

Chicky came to live with us on July 5, 1947. He was a baby Black-capped Chickadee, still covered with down but with stubby feathers about a half an inch long on wings and tail. This is how we came to take him into our hearts and home. Just before one o'clock July 5, a friend found the baby bird lying in the doorway of the post office. He was afraid some cat would get it, or some one passing by might step on it and knowing of our interest in birds, he took it into the office and asked Mr. Snell, my husband, what to do with it. My husband called me and I suggested that he take the baby bird over to the city park and see if he could find the parents. We knew that a pair of Chickadees had a nest in or near the small city park. He looked over the park and listened for a Chickadee call. There was not a single bird of any kind in the park. Throughout the day and during most of the night of the Fourth there had been a terrible bombardment of firecrackers in and around the park. We suppose Mr. and Mrs. Chickadee decided it was too dangerous there, so coaxed the baby birds away. Possibly this one had not been able to follow the parents to a place of safety and had fallen on the street exhausted.

It is a lot of trouble to raise a baby bird, so it was with reluctance that I told Mr. Snell to bring it home. He had held it close to the telephone while we were talking and I could not resist its hungry begging. I forced its mouth open for the first bite of food, but after that first taste the mouth flew open hungrily at the approach of my hand, until he had eaten all he could swallow. After that, he settled down on a perch, hurriedly made from a small tree branch, tacked across one corner of the kitchen from the top of a door to the top of a window casing. After resting for about an hour he was hungry again and ate greedily. Then he tried out his new perch by hopping from one end to the other. Finally he took off toward the kitchen cabinet, flew smack into the wall and fell to the floor. He kept up those nerve racking flights for about two weeks before he learned to make shorter flights to something he could cling to and not fall. I thought he would surely kill himself before he learned his limitations.

He thrived and grew on the diet of custard, made from one egg and a half cup of milk, cooked in a double boiler. After some time, he tired of this diet and fretted for a change. We tried different foods, nuts and peanut butter, among other things, but he did not care for any of them at that time. Later he ate any kind of nuts with relish. Mr. Snell found some small grasshoppers for him and these he enjoyed. So for a while it was custard and grasshoppers. Soon he started eating some finely chopped nuts too. I searched the garden for small worms which he liked better than any other food, except ice cream. When we had ice cream we always fed Chicky what he wanted of it. I would hold a spoon full out to him and he would settle down on my shoulder and scoop up the ice cream, mouthful after mouthful, with an expression of pure bliss. We had at first hoped his parents would come to the window where we kept food for them so we could turn him over to them. But they did not show up, and after a week I put Chicky out on the clothes line in a

wire cage. The parents came to the cage and looked him over and were greatly excited. But Chicky was afraid of them and would have nothing to do with them. I believe they would have fed him if he had asked for food, but he did not seem to realize he was related to them. After a few such attempts, I gave up the idea and did the best I could for him. He was a lovable little clown, very playful at times and a real show off. He had several small things that he played with, carrying them from place to place, hiding them, and later taking them out again. His favorite toy was a piece of match stick, which he carried with him and pecked at it until the splinters flew. He had fun also with a whole almond kernel. He hid it each evening under the end of his stick perch, then in the morning he took it out to play with again. He liked to drop small objects into a vase and watch me fish them out so he could drop them in again. He hid bits of nut in my hair and in my pockets when I would let him.

He was wary of strangers and would squeak and scold when one tried to approach. When I first started caring for him I was wearing a cool pink wrap-around dress. Whenever I tried coming near him with another dress on he acted frightened and would not let me come near him. I finally gave in to his wishes and kept the pink dress handy and slipped it on over anything else I happened to have on, before going into the kitchen.

After he had been with us about two weeks, he started singing. I have never heard another chickadee sing. The notes resembled the song of a Brown Thrasher in some respects. He sang when he felt lonely and seemed to be trying to entertain himself. He did this many times when I was trying to take a nap. He hated being alone, but when I left him he would play awhile, then take a bath, preen his feathers and finally start singing. He seemed to be trying to make all sorts of different funny sounds, just for the fun of it. He would often fly into the bedroom where I was lying and play around the room and at intervals fly down near my face and beg me to get up. As long as I stayed in the kitchen with him he was happy and content. He loved water and took several baths each day, after he once started bathing. He did not bathe until his feathers were out pretty well. He sat inside the window and watched the birds outside bathing and eating. One day I heard quite a commotion. It was our Chicky and another male chickadee having a sparring match through the window pane. They were calling each other names and had their black crests stiff and were trying to claw each other. That happened almost every day then, until I started turning him outside. Chickadees are very jealous of their territory and will not tolerate another one there if they can help it.

As soon as Chicky learned to fly down, we started turning him out. It takes baby birds some time to learn to fly down. They soon learn to fly up but when they want to come down, all they can do is flutter and fall. We let him outside first on July 25, but he came in to roost until August 15, when he started staying outside nights. He would be at the window early each morning though, wanting his breakfast and bath, which he took on the breakfast table, in a small pie pan. He was terribly excited about being outside for the first few days, but he tired easily and would come in often to rest and get cool and eat. The other male bird fought him and made life hard for him, but Chicky would just try to keep out of his way. He tried to be friendly with the older one and seemed hurt and puzzled at the attitude it took. The smaller Chickadee that always came with the old one, was friendly with our bird and would wait near the house, calling frequently, while Chicky was in the house. It is a female bird and we suppose it is his mother, but are not certain of that.

We had fed a pair of Chickadees for two years at our window and to our knowledge they were the only pair in this locality. They had a nest in the park both summers and when the baby birds were old enough, the parents brought them to our place to feed them some of the free food from the window. They raised two

broods each summer. We have wondered what becomes of the young ones since we do not see them after they are fairly well grown.

Late in September, the old Chickadee seemed determined to drive our bird out of the country. We were afraid he was going to kill the little one. They all disappeared for two days on September 18 and 19 but all three came back and were here until the 24th. Then they left again and were gone ten days. We had decided they had moved on to another locality, when they showed up late in the evening of October 4th. Chicky came down to the window and ate, while I stood in the open window and talked to him. With a little coaxing, he would have come inside, but I thought it best to leave him outside since I was going away for three weeks, and knew he would have to stay out during that time. I left on Oct. 6, but Mr. Snell was at home and kept nuts and suet in the window. He saw the Chickadees often and tried a few times to get Chicky to come in, but the bird seemed a little frightened and preferred staying outside. After coming home I did not try to coax Chicky inside. He was glad to see me, though, and made a big fuss, chattering to me. He would fly down near my hands but never quite light on them. Early in the winter a fourth chickadee showed up occasionally with the others and we see it with them still once in a while.

It is now March and the three of them have been here all winter, coming each day for their food. They are singing their spring song and battling each other. We are wondering if our Chicky will get a mate this spring or if the older one will eventually drive him away, or perhaps kill him. We have had a bitter cold winter with much ice and snow, and several times Chicky has acted like he wanted to come inside, flying against the window and calling. But when I opened the window he always changed his mind and decided not to come in. Yesterday he flew down near me when I was out on the steps and almost touched my head.

(Kansas.)

MRS. LESTER E. SNELL.

How Long After Arrival Does a Bird Take to Lay Its Eggs

C. S. BRIMLEY

These data are taken from my old records in the years 1887 to 1898. The first date following the year number is that when the species was first seen, and the second date, that of the first set of eggs, followed by the number of days between the two.

Rubythroated Hummingbird. 1887, April 12-May 20, 38 days later; 1888, April 11-May 11, 30 days; 1889, April 19-May 13, 24 days; 1890, April 18-May 7, 19 days; 1895, April 10-May 19, 39 days. Average, April 14-May 14, 30 days.

Kingbird. 1888, April 16-May 28, 42 days; 1891, April 14-June 16, 63 days; 1894, April 16-June 6, 51 days. Average, April 17-June 9, 53 days.

Crested Flycatcher. 1886, April 22-May 31, 39 days; 1887, April 15-May 24, 39 days; 1889, April 19-May 24, 35 days; 1892, April 21-May 22, 32 days; 1894, April 18-May 24, 36 days. Average, April 19-May 25, 36 days.

Acadian Flycatcher. 1889, April 23-May 24, 31 days; 1890, May 1-May 23, 22 days; 1891, April 22-June 3, 42 days; 1892, April 23-May 23, 30 days; 1895, May 8-June 5, 28 days. Average, April 27-May 28, 31 days.

Wood Pewee. 1888, April 21-June 1, 41 days; 1889, April 24-May 25, 31 days; 1890, April 26-June 4, 39 days. Average April 24-May 31, 37 days.

Wood Thrush. 1886, April 19-May 7, 18 days; 1888, April 11-May 8, 27 days; 1890, April 18-May 16, 28 days; 1893, April 10-May 22, 42 days. Average, April 14-May 13, 29 days.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. 1888, March 24-April 29, 36 days; 1890, March 21-May 1, 41 days; 1894, March 16-April 28, 43 days; 1898, March 21-May 4, 44 days. Average, March 21-May 1, 41 days.

Red-eyed Vireo. 1887, April 18-May 14, 26 days; 1889, April 13-May 21, 38 days; 1890, April 22-May 28, 36 days; 1892, April 18-May 19, 31 days. Average, April 18-May 21, 33 days.

White-eyed Vireo. 1888, March 30-April 26, 27 days; 1889, April 4-May 4, 30 days; 1891, April 6-April 29, 23 days; 1892, March 28-May 7, 40 days. Average, April 2-May 2, 30 days.

Yellow-throated Warbler. 1888, March 23-May 11, 49 days; 1889, March 28-May 4, 46 days; 1890, March 13, April 22, 40 days; 1891, April 1-April 30, 36 days. Average, March 23-May 2, 40 days.

Prairie Warbler. 1888, April 12-May 17, 35 days; 1889, April 18-May 14, 36 days; 1890, April 8-May 16, 38 days; 1891, April 18-May 22, 34 days; 1892, April 10-May 12, 32 days; 1893, April 6-May 13, 37 days; 1894, April 16-May 19, 33 days. Average, April 11-May 16, 35 days.

Yellow-breasted Chat. 1886, April 26-May 19, 23 days; 1888, April 18-May 15, 27 days; 1889, April 23-May 20, 27 days; 1890, April 24-May 24, 30 days; 1891, April 21-May 28, 37 days; 1898, April 20-May 28, 38 days. Average, April 11-May 11, 30 days.

Louisiana Water Thrush. 1889, March 26-April 29, 34 days; 1890, March 29-May 1, 33 days; 1891, April 8-May 1, 23 days; 1892, April 1-May 2, 31 days. Average, April 1-May 1, 30 days.

American Redstart. 1889, April 11-May 15, 34 days; 1890, April 9-May 12, 34 days.

Orchard Oriole. 1887, April 24-June 8, 45 days; 1888, April 16-June 11, 56 days; 1889, April 20-May 29, 39 days; 1890, April 24-May 20, 26 days; 1893, April 25-May 22, 27 days; 1897, April 26-June 1, 36 days. Average, April 23-May 30, 38 days.

Blue Grosbeak. 1886, April 23-June 1, 36 days; 1888, April 25-June 8, 44 days; 1889, May 10-June 3, 24 days; 1893, May 3-June 13, 41 days; 1894, May 1-May 31, 30 days; 1895, May 7-June 11, 35 days; 1896, May 13-June 19, 37 days. Average, May 4-June 8, 35 days.

Indigo Bunting. 1886, April 28-June 5, 38 days; 1887, April 29-June 1, 34 days; 1888, April 30-May 24, 24 days; 1889, May 10-May 21, 11 days; 1891, May 4-May 21, 17 days; 1894, April 27-June 1, 35 days; 1895, May 8-May 31, 23 days. Average May 2-May 28, 27 days. However the average date for arrival of this species is April 26, which if used would make the first nest about 33 days later than first arrival, which is more probable.

From these data it may be seen that the average date of the arrival of all these species was just 34 days before the first nests were found, and as we also found out that the usual time taken in building a nest and laying a set of eggs was almost exactly 14 days, therefore the birds of these different species must have rested from two to three weeks after their arrival before starting nesting, which is about what might be expected.

CONSERVATION PLEDGE: I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country—its soil and minerals, its forests, waters and wildlife.

THIRTY NESTS TO THE ACRE

JOE JONES, Chapel Hill, N. C.

At least 30 bird nests were built last year (1947) on our one-acre place in Chapel Hill at the corner of Hillsboro and Rosemary streets. In 1946 there were 11. I believe the increase is partially a result of our attempt to make the place more attractive to birds. Our efforts included putting up nesting boxes, allowing vines and shrubbery to grow thick and bushy, the removal of wire screens from chimney tops, and fighting off Starlings, English Sparrows, cats, gray squirrels, and flying squirrels.

There were four species of birds I was specially interested in attracting to the place when we moved to it in 1945. They were the Bluebird, Purple Martin, Flicker, and Red-headed Woodpecker. The Bluebird is an old sentimental favorite of mine, and I have a deep feeling for the others because they are being driven out of so many places by Starlings. I wish bird lovers everywhere would make a special effort to provide nesting places for these three species, and protect them against Starlings.

The Red-headed Woodpeckers were already here when we came. They had a hole in an old light pole in the back yard. I was sure they would nest there. A pair went through the motions of nesting in the pole all last spring and summer. They were still mating, in September 1947, but they have never produced an egg. I believe one is sterile and that when it dies, the other will get a new mate and raise a family. That will be a proud day for me.

The bluebird box I put up in 1946 was occupied by House Wrens. But last year a pair of Bluebirds appeared in February and had taken over before the wrens arrived. They brought off two broods. So they are established, and will no doubt be back in 1948.

No Martins came to the ten-room Sears-Roebuck box I put up for them this year. Three were seen circling high over the place in July and August, and they even alighted in the top of a dead sycamore about 200 yards away. But if they saw the box they never showed it. Maybe I'll get them some day. There is a colony three miles from Chapel Hill on the Pittsboro Road, but I don't believe any have nested in the town itself for some years.

In February, 1947, we erected a flicker box about seven feet up on an electric light pole. Two days later a male flicker inspected it, and he soon began calling for a mate. He called loudly and monotonously, week after week. We got tired of hearing him. But he never gave up. He called right on through March, April and May.

In the early mornings of the latter part of May we saw two flickers and heard the whickering sound they make during courtship. Then the female disappeared and the male began calling again. I looked in the box and was surprised to see four eggs. The male flicker began to spend part of the time on the eggs and part outside the box calling for his missing mate, who had probably been killed by a hawk or cat after laying four eggs. I didn't believe the male would hatch the eggs by himself. He took too much time out for mate calling, and he had to eat. But all four eggs hatched June 10. I doubted if the single parent could raise the young ones. One nestling died and was thrown out of the nest by its parent when the brood was about a week old. It had evidently starved to death. A few days later another died and was thrown out. The noble father wasn't doing so well. We fervently hoped he could raise at least one, after all his weary weeks of trouble and anxiety.

The remaining two nestlings did some terrific yelling toward the end of June. A female had showed up and seemed to be trying to entice their parent away. He

paid some attention to her, and sometimes his visits to the nest were more than two hours apart. The young ones screamed with hunger. We expected them to starve. But the male's paternal instincts won, and he began to ignore the blandishments of the female. She left, and he resumed his old schedule of feeding the nestlings at intervals of about every half hour.

Both young left the nest the morning of July 6. They flew to a nearby scuppernong arbor, and then up into a big oak in the front yard. It had been four months, two weeks, and six days since their father took up his stand in the nesting box.

Here is a list of 11 nests, all successful, built during 1946: Mourning Dove, Tufted Titmouse, Cardinal, Robin, Wood Peewee, House Wren (2), Wood Thrush (2), and Chimney Swift (2).

Here is a chart of 30 nests built during 1947, half of which were successful:

	No. of Nests	Successful	Unsuccessful
Chimney Swift	4	3	1
House Wren	3	3	
Robin	3	2	1
Catbird	4	1	3
Bluebird	2	2	
Wood Thrush	2	1	1
Crested Flycatcher	1	1	
Flicker	1	1	
Wood Peewee	1	1	
Cardinal	4		4
Mockingbird	1		1
Brown Thrasher	2		2
Starling	1		1
English Sparrow	1		1

I believe Blue Jays were responsible for the great mortality among the eggs and young of Cardinals, Catbirds, Thrashers, and Mockingbirds. About 15 Blue Jays were here at our feeding station all winter and they were much in evidence during the nesting season.

The five young in the one unsuccessful Swift's nest were killed in a fall of soot and mortar, and the unsuccessful Wood Thrush nest was blown down because it was too precariously placed at the end of an elm branch.

I am positive the Robin's nest was rifled by a flying squirrel. I heard the incubating robin scream at 9 o'clock at night. When I rushed out into the yard she flew up off the ground and into the oak branches near her nest. Early the next morning she was on the nest, evidently having returned to it in the darkness without realizing the eggs were broken or gone. But in an hour or so she left it and never returned. The culprit was no doubt that nocturnal egg-eater, the flying squirrel. In September 1947, I captured one in our Crested Flycatcher nesting box. During the winter of 1946-47, a flying squirrel enlarged the entrance hole to our Tufted Titmouse box. I nailed tin around the hole to keep the squirrels out. The Titmice returned to it in the spring, and would probably have nested there again except that the Flicker used the tin for a sounding board. The Titmice couldn't stand it.

(Sept. 23, 1947.)

REPORT YOUR SCREEN TOURS SCHEDULES: Presidents and Secretaries of local clubs which are sponsoring Audubon Screen Tours for the 1948-1949 season are asked to report their schedules to *The Chat* as soon as they are available.

Migration—The Story of Birds Along the Flyways of the Skies

CHARLOTTE HILTON GREEN, Raleigh, N. C.

Beyond my study window I see a flock of Juncos, several White-throated Sparrows, a Song Sparrow or two, and, at the feeding station on the birch, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is enjoying the suet. A few moments before, a Brown Creeper had been sampling the same suet, only to be chased away by the more militant Myrtle Warbler. A little later, perhaps, a Hermit Thrush will slip in cautiously to feed on the scattered grains beneath the pyracantha, where the Fox Sparrow was seen yesterday.

Winter residents all, who came winging down the flyways of the skies, from various parts of the North, during the autumn days. Migrants, or winged gypsies, they may bring about, for a brief period in my garden, a meeting of the Arctic and the Tropics. For some of the summer residents, as the Wood Thrush, the Summer Tanager, and the Ruby-throated Hummingbird may arrive back at their old nesting grounds before some of the winter birds have departed. Thus we have had, at Brookside, at the same time, the Ruby-throat which may have come from the Gulf Coast, or Mexico, or even from Central America, and a Slate-colored Junco which may have come down from beyond the Arctic Circle, while several times a Hermit Thrush and a Wood Thrush—the one nesting as far north as southern Yukon and northern Quebec, the latter wintering as far south as southern Mexico or Costa Rica—have met to say "Howdy" in my garden.

Once one of our banded Summer Tanagers arrived on April 5th, and came straight to the window cafeteria where he had been caught and banded the year before, came while there were still numbers of White-throats, Song Sparrows, a lone Sapsucker and a still lonelier Brown Creeper about. Yet in a few weeks, perhaps even days, they might be hundreds of miles or even a thousand miles apart. And in still another year, they might all meet, for a brief period, once again in my garden!

Migration! No one has yet solved all the mysteries of it, though more is being learned every year through careful studies, and especially through banding. Think of it, a Ruby-throat, a tiny feathered sprite not much larger than one's thumb, will undertake a journey that might well apall the oldest, most seasoned traveler who has every comfort, convenience and safeguard at his command. Yet Ruby-throat hasn't even a compass to guide him on the long flight—only a bird's homing instinct, and a sense of direction.

"Migration," says Webster, "is the act of passing periodically from one region to another for feeding or breeding." No one knows when or how it started, though some scientists think it may have had some connection with the recent—geologically speaking—Ice Age.

But, throughout the ages man has noted it, and vaguely stirred and puzzled by the seasonal coming and going of birds. Whence had they come, and whither were they going? No wonder the Arabs and the Persians based their calendar on the time certain birds appeared during the year, and that certain primitive Eskimo tribes called October the "month of the flying away" and March and early April the "coming of the birds."

Myths and Legends of Migration

Today, because of varied scientific studies, we do know much about migration, though there is still much more to know. But before the days of trained ornithologists and their studies, there were many quaint legends and myths concerning the appealing mystery. In the Middle Ages, people thought certain birds changed into other species at certain seasons; that some birds hibernated in the mud for the

winter months. Alexander Wetmore, in his book *The Migration of Birds*, has an illustration of an ancient woodcut depicting a fisherman hauling in his net, which contains more swallows than it does fish; and I understand some of our South Carolina negroes still swear this is so. Another theory was that smaller birds congregated on the shores of the Mediterranean and awaited the coming of big, friendly birds, as storks and cranes, and then just comfortably hopping up on their backs, snuggled down among the feathers and had a nice, safe journey across the big blue sea, to Africa.

Still another theory was that certain birds wintered on the moon! People even had it all figured out. Since there was not much traffic on the way, the birds just went to sleep while flying and kept on going until they landed on the moon, the trip taking about sixty days!

But with banding, some accurate information was acquired. Banding, as we know it today, with records carefully kept, was started in 1899, and began where so much constructive work was to begin, in little Denmark. Since then, banding has become popular the world over. The tradition is that perhaps our first non-official banding was done over a hundred years ago when a certain young Frenchman who liked birds, and also liked to hunt on his father's farm near Philadelphia, one day noted some queer nests in a cave. He wondered about the birds which had built them, and watched to see if the birds would return to them in the spring. They did, and built a similar nest near-by. He tried putting a silver thread on the legs of the nestlings and they, too, returned the following year. The birds were Phoebe's, and the young Frenchman, who thus did America's first bird banding was John James Audubon.

Certain animals, too, make migrations, the most unusual, perhaps, and certainly one that appeals to the imagination, being that of the lemming of certain highlands of Norway and Sweden. Lemmings are small animals, something like rats, and they have an unusual cycle in that every few years their food is more abundant and they themselves become so over abundant that their enemies cannot eat them fast enough to maintain a balance. They overcrowd their territory, food becomes scarce and they begin a westward march, down the highlands and toward the sea. Usually they travel along valleys, paying little attention to obstacles, "going over small cliffs and eating their way through haystacks." They are said to travel steadily in rows about three feet apart, and march sometimes taking a year or more, their numbers increasing all the time. They are followed by their enemies—hawks, owls, foxes, and wolves, which eat them in great numbers, yet they continue to the sea. Not even when they reach the shore do they stop, but swim out to sea, until they are overcome by the waves, and are drowned.

Other animals—salmon, shad, seals, eels, have their patterns of migration built up, probably, through thousands, perhaps millions of years. Even the monarch butterfly, that lovely coppery-red fellow with black markings outlining the veins and bordering the wings, migrates northward every spring and summer, moving up as fast as the milkweed (its food plant) appears, so as to give food to its caterpillar. In the autumn, monarchs are often seen migrating southwards in great swarms. Once, at the annual October Audubon meeting, at Cape May, N. J., a large swarm of these butterflies was seen, flying low over the water, and close to shore.

One of the most weird and almost unbelievable stories of migration is that of the eels, but it too long a tale to be told here. We must get back to birds and their travels.

Often Tropical Affiliations

It seems strange that migratory birds often represent families whose mass and affiliations are found in the Tropics, in many cases only a few species being known

elsewhere. Our orioles, tanagers, and hummingbirds are representatives of such families. Hummingbirds are found only in the western hemisphere, and although there are around 600 known species, ranging from Alaska to Patagonia, they are most numerous in Columbia and Ecuador. Of the eighteen species in the United States, only eight go beyond the Mexican border states, and only one, the Ruby-throat, reaches eastern North America. Why? Around 350 species of tanagers are known in the Tropics. Why should but four of them be migrants? The Baltimore Oriole, an orange and black dream of beauty seems almost a tropical flower, dowered, by some magic of alchemy, with wings and a song to gladden our northern lands. But—there are some 40 species of orioles. What is it that urges two or three of them to migrate? Why migrate anyhow, is a question the novice in bird-lore always asks. We can understand a bird's desire to follow the summer in the fall migration, to want to leave the lands of ice and snow for warmer climes, to seek a land where food is plentiful. But why should some sturdy-looking fellows—like the Robin and the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—migrate, while feathered mites like the chickadees and kinglets brave the ice and storms? Part of it is food, we know—but that is not all.

But, they ask again, why the so-early spring migration? Why do some birds leave their winter homes just at the time of greatest increase in plant and insect life, often to be overtaken by cold and storms? In *The Book of Bird Life*, Dr. A. A. Allen, of the Laboratory of Ornithology of Cornell University (and my teacher) states: "The migrating instinct is closely associated with the enlargement and reduction of the reproductive glands, a physiological cycle which, under normal conditions, is just as regular as the pulsing of the heart and records time as accurately as a clock. With most species the organs of mature birds begin to enlarge before those of birds hatched the preceding year, and those of the males before those of the females. Because of this the male birds arrive first and are followed by the females and later by the immature birds."

This, of course, affects the spring migration. Sometimes, in this migration, mating takes place during stops and resting periods, and the pair travel on together. With Phoebes, which are among the few birds that are supposed to remain mated for life, and with Canada Geese, also supposed to mate for life, when one dies, the remaining bird usually soon finds a mate, yet they do not winter together. Nor do they migrate together, and, in the North, if the male arrives first, when his Lady arrives they go about home-seeking as if they had never been parted.

Another mystery is why some fall migratory flocks are made up of young birds of the summer, *which precede the old birds south*. How do they find their way? Allan Cruickshank, Audubon lecturer and in charge of Bird Study at the Audubon Nature Camp in Maine, always prefaces many statements about migration with "as far as we know now," or "the present theory is," to make his students realize how much there is still unknown about migration, and that today's theories may be discarded in the light of further scientific discoveries tomorrow. At present, then, the theory is that birds have a strong homing instinct and a strong, inborn, instinctive, sense of direction. With these young birds of the summer preceding the old birds to a southern home they have never known, it must be an instinctive urge to go to the ancestral winter home of their species.

(To be continued)

Birds in Kansas. By Arthur L. Goodrich, Jr. Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, June 1945, vol. 64, no. 267 (1946); J. C. Mohler, Secretary, Topeka, Kansas: 5 3-4x 8 3-4; 340 p., 6 col. plates by Margaret Wittemore, 169 fig. Free to Kansans.

OBSERVATIONS ON NESTING GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS IN STANLY COUNTY, N. C.

JOHN TROTT, JR., Chapel Hill, N. C.

The first Grasshopper Sparrow nest I observed was found accidentally by two small boys. On May 19th, 1944, the boys took me to the nest, which was in a dry field with little growth. The nest contained five eggs and was carefully hidden at the base of a thick growth of plantain. It was arched over with only a small entrance in the side. The field in which the nest was built was terraced and the nest was built just on the upper side of one of these ditches. On June 1st I returned to find the nest empty. Probably something happened to the young, for there were evidences that the eggs had hatched. It was at this first nest that I discovered that Grasshopper Sparrows do not remove the excreta of the young from the nest, in direct contrast to the extreme sanitary habits of the Field Sparrow and Chipping Sparrow, and the Meadowlark, the latter also a ground nesting bird. This observation proved true with all the Grasshopper Sparrow nests observed.

On May 6th, 1945, I found another Grasshopper Sparrow nest, this one in a field about two miles from the nest found the year before. This nest was also arched over, though to not such an extent as the first one observed. It contained four eggs, and was also built on the upper side of a terrace ditch. I don't know whether or not this practice was accidental, but I prefer to believe that it showed some instinct of the bird to protect its nest from the water that would naturally collect in the ditch. This nest was found purely by accident—the female flew from the nest when I was about seven feet from her. She made no attempt to lead me from her eggs and made no vocal protest. The male bird was not seen. On returning to the nest five days later I found the eggs hatched. This time the fe-



Nest of Grasshopper Sparrow
Found June 1, 1946

male chirped protestingly at me from a nearby weed. Again only one bird was seen.

On May 27th, 1945, at a spot not 50 yards from where I had found the nest just mentioned, I found another Grasshopper Sparrow nest. This one

also had four eggs, and was built much in the same as the one found a few weeks earlier. This nest was built in a slight depression in the ground, on top of the hill near the hedgerow that separated the field from the one in which the other nest was located. The female flew from under my feet and I had no difficulty in locating the nest and eggs. This was in early afternoon and the male had been singing from a tall weed about fourteen feet away. When he heard his mate's distress calls he came over to join her. His mate, when flushed, ran through the grass dragging her wing, but when she saw that I wasn't falling for her trick, she proceeded to find the highest perch available from which to scold me.

Later in the summer of 1945, an old nest was found in the lower part of the field, about 25 yards from the one just described. I believe that it might possibly have been the second nest of this pair.

On June 1st of the following year, I found another nest. This one was discovered by using the method described in Dr. Arthur A. Allen's *Book of Bird Life*. A forty-foot rope was dragged over the field, one person at each end. When the rope passed over a ground nest the female was flushed. The incubating Grasshopper Sparrow flew up, but not before running through the grass the distance of some four feet. It was at this time that I discovered the male bird's strange attempt to lure an intruder away from the nest. I nearly failed to find the nest on account of watching him. Luckily I had placed my assistant at the place where the female had flushed. The male had been singing from a flat stone in the field about 15 feet from where we later found the nest. Right after the female had flown, he continued to sing, but hopped down from his rock and began walking in the opposite direction from the nest. He soon stopped singing, but continued to his way, making wide curves and bobbing his head up and down as he went. He gave the appearance of going secretly to his nest. I followed, and after leading me some seven feet he suddenly flew a short distance and dived into the grass, to be heard or seen no more until I returned to where I had left my companion and found the nest. This nest had three eggs, and like the first nest I had observed, it was built at the base of a large clump of plantain. Unlike any of the previous nests, this one was not arched over (see photograph), but was protected from above by the over-hanging plantain. Each time I visited the nest the male bird repeated his singing-walk through the grass. This nest was located in the same hill-top field where two nests were found the year before. It was, like them, built near a hedge-row. At this nest was the indication of a path leading to the nest so often mentioned in bird books with regard to ground nesting birds.

The growth in the fields in which the nests were located rarely exceeded six inches, the birds usually nested in parts of the fields where the plants were thick but low. During all my visits to the Grasshopper Sparrow nests, except the one mentioned at which only one bird was seen, I rarely found the male far from the incubating female. He was usually singing from a high weed or conspicuous rock, never over 15 feet from the nest.

These nests were all constructed on the same general pattern, being small and deeply cupped. They were built of fine grasses and weed stems, and lined with finer grasses to varying degrees, some with almost no lining, but most with soft, well-built interiors.

From the information gained with three years observation I plan to observe more and hope to contribute to the knowledge of the life history of this insignificant but interesting member of the sparrow family.

Field Notes and News

BUZZARD WRECKS PLANE: According to a United Press report from New Haven, Ky., dated March 27, an eyewitness reported the collision of a Beechcraft plane with a buzzard, which resulted in the crash of the plane and the death of five persons aboard.

A. D. S.

REDDISH EGRET REPORTED IN NORTH CAROLINA: On July 27, 1947, at a small lake 13 miles southeast of Charlotte, I saw Great Blue Heron, young of Little Blue Heron, American Egret, and one Reddish Egret. The latter was perched on a dead tree and my son George and I observed it, at a distance of about 35 yards, for ten minutes. The light was perfect, and I do not think there could be any mistake in identification, as I am thoroughly familiar with the herons and egrets.

G. H. HOLMES, Tryon, N. C.

RED-WING BLACKBIRD HANGED BY STRING: On April 18, at Pullen Park, Raleigh, I discovered a female Red-wing Blackbird which had hanged itself on a piece of string. The bird was about 20 feet from the ground, in a gum tree, and the string with which she was entangled was part of the tattered remains of a kite which had been caught in the tree. The string was tightened around the bird's neck, which was apparently broken, and one claw was still tightly clenched in a tangle of the string, which the bird was possibly trying to get for nesting material.

SANDY McCULLOCH

WHEN DO YOUNG BIRDS LEARN TO BATHE? Perhaps some of your readers have wondered about the age at which birds learn to take their baths. Recently I saw something which might help to clear up this question. I saw a young Robin just out of the nest and which had hardly learned to fly, alight on the rim of one of my bird baths. The parent bird alighted about the same time and fed the young one and flew away immediately. The youngster remained, walked into deeper water, and proceeded in the best bird manner to take his bath.

J. WESTON CLINARD, Hickory, N. C.

POSSIBLE RECORD OF OREGON JUNCO AT GREENSBORO: About January 15, I noted an unusual Junco feeding with ordinary Juncos at a feeding station at my home in Greensboro. This unusual bird was seen during the next three weeks by numerous other observers. I reported my find to Ludlow Griscom of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass., and in reply, Griscom stated that the bird could not possibly be an Eastern Junco in any plumage, though it was impossible to tell which of the western sub-species it might possibly be. Griscom added that several individuals of one western subspecies, *Junco oreganus montanus* had reached the Atlantic States this winter.

GEO. A. SMITH

PURPLE MARTINS ARRIVE LATE AT GREENSBORO: The first Purple Martin arrived at Justamere Farm, near Greensboro, much later this year than usual, and the arrival of others has been a delayed affair. One bird arrived March 16, but did not remain. Three more arrived on March 18, and by the end of the month there were only about 12 pairs. I supposed that this depleted number might be all that remained of the large group of last summer, but, surprisingly enough, more kept arriving through the month of April, until my gourds were filled. A nearby neighbor reports the arrival of a few Martins at his home as late as May 7.

DR. WESLEY TAYLOR



Kildeer's Nest in Northern Part of Chatham County

KILLDEERS NEST EARLY: A Killdeer's nest with a complete set of four eggs was found March 15 in a field of winter wheat on the farm of R. E. Coker, near Chapel Hill, N. C. The accompanying photograph, taken March 17, shows that the "nest" is practically bare ground, but the eggs are well concealed by their coloration. The mother Killdeer tried to lead me away from the nest by flopping around on the ground as if she were unable to fly.

OVE F. JENSEN

ENGLISH SPARROW FEEDS YOUNG ORCHARD ORIOLE: On April 26, 1942, from an upstairs window in my home, I focused a 30 power telescope on an Orchard Oriole that was building her nest in an oak tree in my yard. For several days the female worked almost continuously on the nest, while the male bird sat nearby singing. Three eggs were hatched and my family and several friends watched the mother Oriole feed her young. On the after-

noon of June 6, I was very much surprised to see an English Sparrow fly up and stuff a piece of bread into the open mouth of one of the Orioles. I watched the Sparrow as she flew down into a neighbor's yard for more bread, and repeated the feeding. During the following six days the Sparrow continued to feed the young Orioles. The mother Oriole tried in vain to fight off the Sparrow, but did continue to feed her young. The first Oriole left the nest on June 9. When the third young Oriole left the nest on June 11, it alighted on a wire fence, where it received another feeding from the Sparrow. Though this seems very odd to me, I believe that I have a possible explanation for the behavior of the Sparrow. I had destroyed a Sparrow's nest and young just a few days before finding the Sparrow feeding the young Orioles.

R. E. LEE, JR., Durham, N. C.

GREAT HORNED OWL CARRIED OFF TRAP: A Great Horned Owl, which was mounted about ten years ago by a student at the University of North Carolina, decorates the office of Postmaster W. S. Hogan, at Chapel Hill. Mr. Hogan relates that the owl had been caught in a pole trap set to catch hawks. The owl was powerful enough to pull the chain loose and fly away with the trap fastened to its leg. A day or two later, Mr. Hogan saw the owl flying with something grasped in its talons. He followed it and watched it alight and take off a couple of times. In each instance, the owl carefully wrapped the dangling chain in its talons, so that its flight was not too much impeded. Mr. Hogan had a gun handy, and shot the owl.

ROBERT OVERING, Raleigh, N. C.

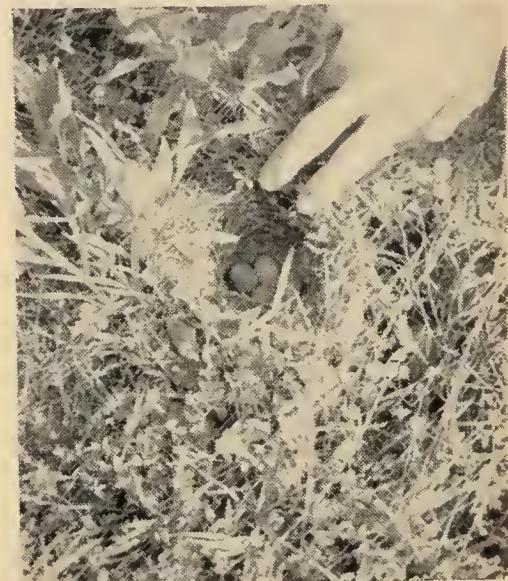
BLUE-HEADED VIREO NESTS AT SOUTHERN PINES: I heard a Red-eyed Vireo as early as April 6, at Southern Pines this spring. During the same week a number of our local bird club members reported a Vireo's nest. On April 13, I went to see the nest, which was located about ten feet from the ground, in an oak tree. The bird was on the nest, with only the top of the head, back and tail visible,

and we assumed that it might be a Red-eyed Vireo with poorly formed eye markings. On April 27, we again went to the nest, and found both parent birds feeding the young. They were quite tame, and we were able to observe them from a distance of a few feet. They proved to be Blue-headed Vireos. The wing bars and other markings were plainly seen. This is a record find for our local club.

FLORENCE H. ROBINSON

HORNED LARK NESTS AND EGGS FOUND AT GREENSBORO: On Sunday, May 9, we located at the Greensboro-High Point airport two nests of (Prairie?) Horned Larks, each with 4 eggs. This is apparently the first record for Horned Lark eggs and nests for Guilford County, though a few days previously, on the Greensboro spring count, (May 1), Larry Crawford and A. D. Shaftesbury had found, at the airport, a fledgling Horned Lark that was not quite able to fly. We took pictures of both nests, but the eggs were very dark and the nests were embedded in the clay, flush with the surface of the ground, so the eggs did not show up too well.

The Prairie Horned Lark has been extending its range southward rather rapidly in recent years. In 1931, the southern limits of its range were listed as West Virginia and Maryland. Apparently the first observation of nest and young in North Carolina was made in Iredell County, near Statesville, in mid-June, 1940, by Maurice Stimson (*The Chat*, 1941, vol. V, p. 22). The first eggs of Prairie Horned Lark ever recorded in North Carolina were discovered by Dr. Francis H. Craighill, who found a nest and eggs at the Rocky Mount airport, on April 19, 1941.



Nest and Eggs of Horned Lark
Greensboro, N. C., May 9, 1948

OSCAR PARIS; HUGH L. MEDFORD, JR.

REGARDING SOME "DOUBTFUL" SPECIES AND SUB-SPECIES IN COASTAL NORTH CAROLINA: Following a discussion with the editor of *The Chat* regarding some of the birds which so far have a doubtful status in our coastal section, I have subjected "Birds of North Carolina" to a close study to find out just which birds are included in this category, and I noted particularly the section dealing with the Florida Barred Owl, *Strix varia georgica*. Pearson and the Brimleys thought it probable that this variety replaced the northern form in the southeastern part of the state, and, from my own observations, I am inclined to agree with them. I have handled a number of barred owls here at Wilmington, N. C., during the past few years and all but one of them were Florida Barred Owls. The one exception, which was a Northern Barred Owl, was killed on Town Creek in 1938. I have now in my collection a large Florida Barred Owl, easily distinguished by the lack of feathers on the toes, taken in October, 1946, on Long Creek, about fifteen miles from Wilmington, N. C. These owls may be heard in any season in this area.

JOHN B. FUNDERBURG, Wilmington, N. C.

SPECIMENS OF NORTH CAROLINA BIRDS: Recently I found some specimens of North Carolina birds in the extensive collection of the American Museum of Natural History in New York which I don't believe have been recorded in ornithological literature. These are as follows:

Phalacrocorax auritus floridanus, Florida Cormorant (No. 349522). A male of this species was collected on February 5, 1900, at Hatteras, Dare County. The collector is not noted on the museum tag, but the specimen is originally from the collection of Dr. Jonathan Dwight.

Chen caerulescens, Blue Goose (No. 106941). Collected on Currituck Sound on November 2, 1909, by Edwin C. Kent.

Mareca penelope, European Widgeon (No. 95147). An adult male was taken on northern Currituck Sound on January 3 or 4, 1910, by Dr. L. C. Sanford.

Steganopus tricolor, Wilson's Phalarope (Nos. 95199, 95200). These two birds, the first marked as an immature female (?) and the second as an adult male, were collected in Currituck County on the beach opposite Knott's Island on August 17, 1908, by R. B. Lawrence. Only one of these is recorded in *Birds of North Carolina*.

(Nov. 17, 1947). FREDERIC R. SCOTT, Richmond, Virginia.

With the Editor

WEAVER HAS ARTICLE IN NATURE MAGAZINE: Dr. Richard L. Weaver, of Chapel Hill, until recently Secretary of the N. C. B. C. and at present a member of the Executive Board, adds another to his list of a considerable number of published articles, with a paper, "Conservation Moves Ahead," which appeared in the February issue of Nature Magazine (Vol 41, No. 2, P. 104).

JUNIOR NATURAL HISTORY MAGAZINE: Recommended for the school child between the ages of seven and fourteen; a wholesome publication which fosters an abiding interest in nature's handiwork in field, stream, forest, earth, and sky. A monthly publication, profusely illustrated, at \$1.25 a year. Address: Junior Natural History Magaine, The American Museum of Natural History, New York 24, N. Y.

FOR USE IN SUMMER CLASSES: "Birds and Their Attributes," by Glover Morrell Allen, Lecturer in Zoology at Harvard University and Librarian of the Boston Society of Natural History; a fourth large printing is now available at \$4.00 a copy. Teachers may secure an examination copy by writing: Marshall Jones Co., Publishers, Francestown, New Hampshire.

MISS MAY W. PUETT—Leader in the organization of the new bird club at Greenville, S. C., is a former officer and enthusiastic worker in the Lenoir, N. C., Audubon Club. She writes that she is trying to get contact with Carolina Bird Club Members in other South Carolina localities in an effort to get them lined up with the Greenville club or to help them organize their own clubs. Spartanburg is on her list, so we can expect a local bird club there soon. Such enthusiastic work certainly comes at the right time to fit in with the newly consolidated "Carolina Bird Club."

"WILD WINGS," is the title of a fascinating new bird book, written by Dr. Joseph James Murray, who is pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Lexington, Virginia. The reader of this attractively written and illustrated volume goes on a facinating series of bird walks with the author, in his

home section in western Virginia, through the Florida Everglades, and even in Europe. Dr. Murray, who is a member of the N. C. B. C., has a natural love for the out-of-doors, and is one of the keenest bird students in this country. His "Wild Wings" will be enjoyed by young and old, by hiker and shut-in. The chapters are short, informal chats, made even more delightful in relating his own experiences and observations. It is the sort of book which bird lovers will enjoy reading on account of its colorful and easy style and on account of its amazing amount of information. A lovely gift volume, it will become for many bird lovers a permanent reference volume. Copies may be secured from: John Knox Press, Box 1176, Richmond 9, Virginia. Cloth bound, the price of the 123 page volume is \$2.50.

ORNITHOLOGY ESSAY AWARDS ANNOUNCED: The following winners of the High School Ornithology Essay awards were announced May 7, the annual meeting of the North Carolina Academy of Science, at Davidson College, Davidson, N. C.: First place, Minerva Rae Waters, Pantego High School, for her essay "And They Earned Their Merit Badges Too!"; second place, Charles Kiser, High School Dept., Warren Wilson Junior College, Swannanoa, subject: "Birds on Our Campus"; third place, Frances Ann Radcliff, Pantego High School, subject "Birds of My Home Community." The ornithology essay awards, a part of several High School awards sponsored each year by the North Carolina Academy of Science, are given through the cooperation of Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson, Charlotte, N. C., who offers \$20 cash for a first prize, and the North Carolina State Museum which offers a copy of "Birds of North Carolina" for second and third prizes. The awards were announced by Dr. Archie D. Shaftesbury, Chairman of the High School Science Committee of the Academy of Science.

OFFICIAL STATE BIRD OF N. C.: Andrew Miller, Greensboro, N. C., writes to Carl Goerch, at Raleigh (*The State*, Oct. 4), as follows: "My teacher says that we have no official state bird in North Carolina, and that the Cardinal is the unofficial state bird. Will you please let me know if this is correct." Goerch's answer, of course, is that the Cardinal is the official state bird, according to an act of the North Carolina Legislature, and the dogwood blossom is the state flower, by the same authority. . . . And speaking of informing the school teachers of North Carolina regarding the *official* status of our state bird, the Cardinal, reminds us that no less than the head of our state publicity bureau, Bill Sharpe, also needs a little straightening out regarding this matter. In the October issue of *Holiday* (the special North Carolina issue which gave Greensboro all of 1½ lines mention in Jonathan Daniel's article), Sharpe apparently let this misstatement slip through (page 44): "State bird—the Cardinal (unofficial)."

Considerable fun was poked at the Legislature in 1933 when, at the suggestion of the North Carolina Federation of Woman's Clubs, it adopted a resolution making the Carolina Chickadee the official state bird, and a few days later removed the Chickadee as the official state bird, after the legislators had seen a stuffed specimen of a Chickadee and recognized it as a "Tom-tit." In 1943, at the request of the North Carolina Bird Club and various cooperating clubs, Senator Rivers D. Johnson of Duplin County introduced a bill to name the Cardinal as the Official State Bird. This time there had been more extensive ground work. Bird clubs all over the state, with the aid of the state's leading newspapers and magazines, took a poll of schools and other groups, and the Cardinal won by long odds. The bill passed in the Senate and was turned over to Representative Willie Lee Lumpkin, of Franklin County, to pilot it through the House. On March 4, 1943, the bill was passed by the House, thus making the Cardinal the Official Bird of North Carolina.

FALL MEETING TO BE HELD AT SALUDA, N. C. ON WEEK-END OF OCTOBER 3

(Registration as early as 3:00 P.M. Friday, Oct. 1, is desired)

PLACE: Saluda, N. C. The Southern Railway Clerks Home, which accommodates 45, will be held open. (The following places will be available: Mountain Manor, 45 people; Saluda Inn—steam heat, 35 people; and Fairview, 35 people.)

Members of Carolina Bird Club are asked to hold open the first weekend in October, and wait for further notices.

MRS. G. C. POTTER,
Secretary, Carolina Bird Club, 2111 Malvern Rd., Charlotte 7, N. C.

EVERY CITIZEN'S RESPONSIBILITY

At one of the recently held Public Waterfowl Meetings, conducted over the country by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Dr. Clarence Cottam, Asst. Chief of the Service, made a remark of such profound significance that it is passed on herewith. He said, in speaking of the future of American wildfowl, that until every citizen felt his or her responsibility, to the extent of reporting known violations of game laws to the nearest warden, there never would be complete success in conserving this great natural resource.

Despite the almost universal opprobrium attaching to tale-bearing, he stressed that this was not in that category at all, but rather the civil duty of everyone in reporting a crime. Should a housebreaker be detected in the act, a policeman is called; a game law violator is doing the same thing in doing away with an asset which belongs to the American public. He is stealing, and is, actually, a burglar to all of us. It is hoped that Dr. Cottam's advice will be heeded by every member of this Club.

ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR.

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EDITOR OF THE CHAT .. Dr. A. D. Shaftesbury, W.C.U.N.C., Greensboro, N. C.
MEMBERS AT LARGE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Harry T. Davis, Raleigh, N. C.; Dr. Richard L. Weaver, Chapel Hill, N. C.

LOCAL CLUBS AND THEIR OFFICERS

Arden, Roscraggon Wood, Inc.: P—Harold B. Swope, Skyland; V-P—Dr. Leigh Robinson, Skyland; S-T—Mrs. W. H. Lashley, Royal Pines; Board of Governors—Dr. Graham Harden, Skyland; Miss Susan Sheppard, Skyland; Kenneth Carr, Skyland.

Asheville Bird Club: P—R. H. Rembert; V-P—Miss Margaret Decker; S—Mrs. M. F. Meredith, 10 Castle St.; T—Mrs. Francis E. Field.

Blowing Rock, Blowing Rock Audubon Club: P—Miss Lena Reeves; V-P—Mrs. Joe Winkler.

Boone Bird Club: P—Dr. Robert King; V-P—Mrs. W. M. Burwell; S-T—Miss Cora Jeffcoat.

Chapel Hill Bird Club: P—Mrs. Harold Walters; V-P—David Frey; S-T—Mrs. David Olson, Box 998; Publicity Chairman—Mrs. Horace D. Crockford.

Charlotte, Mecklenburg Audubon Club: P—Mrs. George C. Potter, 2111 Malverne Rd.; V-P—Mrs. H. W. Kilpatrick; S—Miss Connie Thigpen, 1215 Greenwood Cliff; T—Mrs. W. B. Simmons.

Durham, Duke-Durham Bird Club: P—Miss Bertha B. Hopkins, 506 Buchanan Road; S-T—Mrs. M. W. Johnson.

Greensboro, Piedmont Bird Club: P—Mrs. Floyd H. Craft; V-P—R. D. Douglas and Mrs. H. L. Medford; Rec. S—Miss Charlotte Dawley; Cor. S—Miss Ethel McNairy; T—Miss Sarah Lesley; Ex. Comm.—Officers and Mrs. W. C. Carr and Miss Etta Schiffman.

Guilford College, T. Gilbert Pearson Bird Club: P—Elizabeth Hare; V-P—J. G. Gilbert; S-T—Margery Pickett.

Henderson Bird Club: P—Mrs. A. W. Bachman; V-P—Mrs. T. C. Gill; S-T—Miss Agnes Pegram.

Hickory Bird Club: P—J. Weston Clinard; V-P—Mrs. George E. Bisanar; S-T—Mrs. Alex F. Vallotton, 1415 Eighth Ave.; Reporter—J. W. Clinard.

High Point, Catesby Bird Club: P—James R. Mattocks; S—Mrs. Chester C. Haworth; T—Mrs. John C. Siceloff.

Lenoir Audubon Club: P—Miss Margaret Harper; V-P—R. T. Greer; S-T—Mrs. R. T. Greer, Box 800.

Lumberton Bird Club: P—James Stephens, Jr.; V-P—Mrs. Henry McKinnon; S—Mrs. D. L. Whiting; T—Miss Lillian Whiting.

Mount Airy Bird Club: P—Mrs. J. Bruce Yokley; V-P—O. W. Kochtitsky; S—Mrs. H. G. Long; T—Fred Johnson.

Raleigh Bird Club: P—Phillip H. Davis; V-P—W. B. Nesbit; S—Frank B. Meacham, N. C. State Museum; Ex. Comm.—Officers and Mrs. A. J. Skaale and G. M. Garren.

Roanoke Rapids Bird Club: P—Mrs. D. L. Wheeler; V-P—Miss Clara Hearne; S-T—Mrs. T. L. O'Briant, 538 Vance St.

Rocky Mount, Francis H. Craighill Bird Club: P—J. W. E. Joyner; V-P—The Rev. Gray Temple; S—Miss Dorothy Craighill; T—Miss Lilly Shearin; Members of Executive Committee—Mrs. Fairy Bandy and Mrs. J. W. E. Joyner.

Southern Pines Bird Club: P—Mrs. Cecil Robinson; V-P & S—Miss Louise Haynes, Box 660; T—Miss Norma Shiring; Rec. S—Mrs. Gordon Clark.

Statesville Audubon Club: P—Miss Nancy B. Eliason; V-P—Miss Grace Anderson; S—Mrs. Calhoun Ramsey; T—Mrs. Earl Davis.

Tryon Bird Club: P—G. H. Holmes; S-T—Katherine D. Hamilton.

Wilmington Bird Club: P—Mrs. Cecil Appleberry, 5 Lake Forest Parkway; V-P—John Funderburk; S—Mrs. Warwick R. Baker, 204 Kenwood Ave.; T—Charles F. Theobald.

Winston-Salem Bird Club: P—Henry Magie; S-T—Wm. S. Rothrock, 2434 Stockton St.; Directors—Charles H. Babcock, Thurmond Chatham, Jr., Richard J. Reynolds, II.

The Chat

BULLETIN OF CAROLINA BIRD CLUB



Black and White Warblers

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SEPTEMBER, 1948

No. 4

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The Chat

BULLETIN OF CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

DR. ARCHIE D. SHAFESBURY, *Editor*

Woman's College of University of North Carolina, Greensboro, N. C.

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CONTENTS

	Page
The Duck—A Heritage— <i>Eddie W. Wilson</i>	57
Local Club News— <i>B. R. Chamberlain</i>	58
Migration—The Story of Birds Along the Flyways of the Skies — <i>Charlotte Hilton Green</i>	61
Field Notes and News	65
Hunting a Heron Rookery in a Florida Wilderness— <i>G. H. Holmes</i>	69
Another Purple Gallinule Found in North Carolina— <i>J. W. Johnson</i>	71
With the Editor	72
Cover Photograph by Dr. A. A. Allen, Cornell University	

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The Duck—A Heritage

By EDDIE W. WILSON, Cary, N. C.



Duck Effigy Pipe

(Courtesy of the Museum of the American Indian,
Heye Foundation, New York City)

With several species of North American ducks nearing extinction, and the other species all enormously reduced in numbers, it seems that the American wild duck, of such great economic importance, might suffer the fate of the Passenger Pigeon. This would mean the passing of a group with entertaining habits and rich tradition.

As for entertainment, both child and adult find delight in the exciting sport of duck-watching: wild ducks in the air, criss-crossing in graceful patterns; ducks on the water, pluming themselves, dipping with their tails up, diving, swimming in circles as they sleep with their heads tucked under their back-feathers, lifting themselves erect on the surface of the water and vigorously flapping their wings.

As for rich tradition, the American wild duck has figured prominently in American folklore, art, and literature throughout the years. In the realm of folklore, according to an Ojibway Indian myth, it was the duck which brought wild rice to man. The story is: One day, Wenibojo, the hero-god, returned from hunting to find a duck sitting at the edge of his kettle of boiling water. After the duck flew away, Wenobojo looked into the kettle and found strange particles floating upon the water. When he had eaten heartily from the kettle, he decided that it was the best soup he had ever tasted. So he followed in the direction that the duck had taken and soon came to a lake in which the delicious food—wild rice—was growing in abundance.

Wenibojo's following the duck in this myth is in keeping with the veneration many of the tribes showed the duck. To them this handsome bird was an unerring guide as it was familiar with the pathless air and water and was also at home on the land, knowing well the streams and lakes. Again, it was used as a charm or prayer-symbol for water, so essential in the realization of primitive folk. An instance of the duck's presence in Indian weather-lore is the fact that on the north Pacific coast of North America, the Tsimshain was not allowed to throw stones at ducks lest a heavy snowstorm set in.

In the art of the early American, perhaps the effigy pipes display the duck in the most striking manner. The accompanying illustration is typical

of many of these. This wood-duck of finely polished steatite is $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches long. It was found at Peachtree, Cherokee County, North Carolina. It is evident that the artist-craftsman took particular pains with the notches along top of comb and along the tail. This masterpiece is now in the museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, New York City. However, the potters of these early days perpetuated the duck most interestingly in clay, both realistically and in forms highly conventionalized. It was a favorite subject in the wares of many sections. For instance, excavation in a Pueblo ruin brought to light a duck-shaped vessel with three knobs representing the tail and wings while on the sides of the bird are painted triangular designs with terraced figures representing rain.

Among American writers, perhaps our naturalists have found greatest delight in portraying the duck. Thoreau considered it a "very beautiful bird" and mentions it many times in his *Journal*. Audubon, in Labrador, watched a mother eider duck "swimming man-of-war-like amid her floating brood like the guardship of a most valuable convoy;" again, while in London, two flocks of wild ducks made him "homesick" for "the vast forests in their calm purity, the beauties of America." John Burroughs says that at one time a wild duck and her young challenged him to a race but they sped so fast before him that he "dropped his paddle and cheered them heartily." Finally, for John Muir the duck was the most beautiful of birds. In his autobiography he tells us that when he was a child his father brought one of these to the house to show his "bairns." Immediately "they all agreed that never before had we seen so awfu' bonnie a bird."

Local Club News

(The Section covering Club news has been assigned to me, and I am calling on the Secretary or other representative of each local club for your contributions. We need brief notes on the activities of as many members, and their friends, as possible. The notes must be about people—what they are doing and what they plan to do. Please jot down the doings of your people—everything you deem Chatworthy, and send in the news at once. A postal card or two from each local club will be better than a volume from one.

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, Rt. 1, Matthews, N. C.

ASHEVILLE, N. C.: R. H. Rembert, President of the Asheville Bird Club, writes that their Club was organized during the month of April, so their Club year runs from April to April. They suspend regular Club meetings during the five months, December through April, when they have their Audubon Screen Tours.

CHARLESTON, S. C.: R. H. Coleman, President of the Charleston Natural History Society, has spent most of the summer collecting mammals

in South Carolina in preparation for a new course in mammology to be given at the College of Charleston this winter. George Rabb, with a field crew from Emory University, has wound up a summer of reptile work in Georgia. . . Alex Sprunt and E. B. Chamberlain are still grinding out manuscript for "Birds of South Carolina," and have reached the sparrow family. Both plan to take time out to make the Tryon trip and to attend the Annual Meeting of AOU at Omaha, Nebraska, on October 11th. . . Harold Peters, Atlantic Flyway Biologist of United States Fish and Wildlife Service has a new assignment on doves. Says he will try to turn up at Tryon if he can break away.

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.: Wm. L. Hamnet who was on the program at the Annual Meeting at Chapel Hill, plans a banding station at his home there in connection with his work with the North Carolina Fish and Wildlife Commission. . . Dick Weaver has put in a full summer in pursuit of his business as Secretary-Treasurer of the American Nature Study Society.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.: Mrs. George Potter, President of the Mecklenburg Audubon Club, attended the special session for club officers at the Audubon Nature Center at Greenwich, Conn. She reports a rainy but thoroughly enjoyable experience. . . The Mecklenburg Audubon Club has signed up for a week-end at Bulls Island, S. C., this December. . . Miss Laura Owens has been named Director of the Charlotte Children's Nature Museum, succeeding Russ Peterson who has taken a position with a Canada Museum.

COLUMBIA, S. C.: Mrs. G. E. Charles, for years a valuable contributor to Audubon Field Notes, is busy compiling a seasonal list of birds of Richland and Lexington Counties, in the heart of South Carolina.

GREENSBORO, N. C.: Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall is back after two months as instructor at the Audubon Nature Camp at Medomak, Maine. You can get a first hand report of her trip at Tryon. . . Five members of the Piedmont Bird Club served as Bird or Nature Counselors in summer Camps, Miss Etta Schiffman, Mrs. Edith Settan, Oscar Paris, and Bill Craft were with camps in North Carolina, and Mrs. Margaret Wall was with the Audubon Nature Camp at Medomak, Maine. Miss Etta Schiffman and Mrs. Floyd H. Craft spent two weeks in June at the Maine Audubon Camp. A field trip to Ocracoke was a high-light of the Piedmont Bird Club this summer. Nineteen Club members left Greensboro August 20 and spent the week-end on Ocracoke Island, a part of the North Carolina outer banks, to observe gulls, terns, pelicans, and shore birds. Ocracoke is recommended by

the Club as a splendid place for birding. Forty-eight species were counted on this trip.

HENDERSON, N. C.: Misses Mariel Gary and Garnette Meyers have returned from a trip into Canada with this contribution: "In New Brunswick, a pair of Mallards were waiting at the door of the tourist home as we went up for supper. Our questions to the owners revealed that the pair stayed on the place the year around. When time for winter migration south arrived they had been fed *sleeping pills* and carried into the barn. Now they accept the winter hand-out."

RALEIGH, N. C.: Mrs. Charlotte Hilton Green took courses in Natural History at the University of Colorado this summer. . . Sandy McCulloch got his bird banding permit this summer. He has had experience in banding around Raleigh and at the heron rookery on Battery Island, Southport. . . In July, Raleigh city authorities had thrust upon them the proposal to fog the city from the air with DDT spray as a means of checking the spread of polio. D. L. Wray and Harry Davis, as citizens and members of the Raleigh Bird Club, appeared before the City Council with others to point out the fact that such spraying as was done should be selective ground spraying inasmuch as: (1) There is no accepted proof that insects carry polio; (2) Such promiscuous spraying would be harmful in its effect on mammals, fishes and beneficial insects; (3) Overall spraying would not be as effective as spot spraying for destroying undesirable insects. The Council adopted spot spraying. . . Ernest Mitchell, Jr., has taken a Civil Service position with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service at Washington, D. C. Both he and Roxie Simpson are located in the National Museum building. . . Raleigh Bird Club member Mary Shelburne Crawford and John Trott, Jr., have been exposing some color film for the Museum this summer.

SOUTHERN PINES, N. C.: Miss Louise M. Haynes, Secretary of Southern Pines Bird Club, writes from Rockport, Maine, that their club has no scheduled meetings between May and February as the members scatter during the summer and fall and report their bird experiences later.

WILMINGTON, N. C.: Mrs. Cecil Appleberry, President of the Wilmington Bird Club, has put in three good June weeks assisting with the Nature Program at the Girl Scout Camp at Greenville Sound. Eighty-two girls attended. . . Claude McAllister spent five weeks at the Duke Marine Laboratory at Pivers Island, Beaufort, N. C. A good part of his

time was devoted to photographing young terns and Oystercatchers. . . . The resourceful Mrs. A. reports shop-lifting corn worms at the A & P store for a hungry baby vireo. At the cash register, the nosey checker peeked into the worm bag and registered shrieks.

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.: A nice letter from Henry Magie reports the Forsyth Wildlife Club sponsoring a city-country program to give every one of the 1600 Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts an introduction to local birds. . . . Mrs. George Simmons reported organizing the fifth sanctuary for Winston-Salem. This one a 27-block area in the west end section. Probable name: "Twin Castles Bird Sanctuary." . . . Final note in Mr. Magie's letter: "Hope to have for distribution sunflower seeds, super mammoth, grandiflora, maxime, giant," for next spring planting, especially for South Carolina members. Address: 1515 N. W. Boulevard, Winston-Salem, N. C.

Migration—The Story of Birds Along the Flyways of the Skies

CHARLOTTE HILTON GREEN, Raleigh, N. C.

(CONCLUSION)

Migration Unevenly Distributed

Migration of birds is not evenly distributed. There are several great ancestral routes or flyways; the Mississippi Valley being one, the Atlantic Coast another, with many minor ones. East of the plains a multitude of spring migrants enter the United States along the eastern lowlands of Mexico, by way of the West Indies and even straight across the Gulf, and divide into two definite streams of travel, one going up the Atlantic Coast, passing through the Carolinas, on through the Hudson Valley and into New England; the other going up the Mississippi Valley.

The majority of the migrants keep to the same route spring and fall but a few birds have a different route for the northern and southern flights. Thus the Golden Plover winters in the Argentine. "In spring these birds migrate northward through Central South America and on up the Mississippi Valley to their breeding grounds on the bleak tundras and the barren islands of the Arctic. In contrast, on the return trip they fly southeast, to the Coast of Labrador, where they feast on crowberries, storing their "fuel" in the form of fat for the long—perhaps 2,400 mile flight—down the Atlantic Ocean, not sighting land again until they reach northern Brazil." Easterly winds, according to our own *Birds of North Carolina*, at times bring some of the flocks, for a brief period, to the Atlantic seaboard of the United States and rarely to our own state. Think of it, from Canada to Brazil without resting! From Northern South America they may fly on for another 2,700 miles to their winter home, covering some 8,000 miles in all. Some flight! But why, one wonders, does this plover go so far, when the smaller fraiser looking relative, the Piping Plover, remains on the shores of our own land?

If we are talking about long-distant flights, however, the classic example is the Arctic Tern, the "Lindbergh of all migrants." This tern, that may nest far within

the Arctic Circle, sometimes as far north as Greenland, and northern Greenland, at that, seems to feel it necessary to winter south of the Antarctic Circle. And through banding, it is known that some, at least, cross the Atlantic and head south. Thus, the extremes of its nesting and wintering range are 11,000 miles apart, so that it may have to travel 22,000 miles each year!

Bird's "Flying Equipment"

In contrast to the Arctic Tern, that stream-lined, slender-winged bird so well "equipped" for long flights, is the Bob-white. A few moments ago a covey of them were feeding just beyond my long border. Then a stray dog entered the yard, and off they whirred on rapidly beating wings, to the safety of a wild tangle of low shrubs and trees. Plump, compact little "bobs," with heavy bodies and short, round wings, capable of rapid flight, for escape—and for a few moments! But not capable of long flights. Bob, many believe, never ranges much more than a half-mile from his birth-place.

According to Dr. Frank M. Chapman, Dean of American Birdmen, in *The Travels of Birds*, a bird's equipment for long flights is the "engine" consisting of the wings and muscles, and the "fuel" which is the bird's coat of fat. (The camel's "fuel" is its "hump" of fat, whereas a bird's fat is quite evenly distributed over its body.) Too, there are a number of other things which make it possible for certain birds to sustain long flights. A bird's skeleton is very compact, and the bones are hollow; the heart is large and powerful, the lungs wonderfully developed. The feathers of such birds are so constructed as to withstand the beating of the wind.

The old conception that birds migrated at a great height does not check with recent studies, although it is granted that height is influenced by the weather. On cloudy night birds generally fly lower to escape the moisture-laden clouds. The great majority of birds fly below 1600 feet and between 25-40 miles an hour. Of course, there are exceptions. Storks and Godwits have been recorded at 20,000 feet; Archibald Rutledge tells of a flock of geese that were photographed at five miles above the earth.

Speed, too, has been exaggerated, although again there are exceptions. According to Dr. Allen, the championship speed for homing pigeons has been recorded at 55 miles an hour for a period of four hours. A great blue heron has been timed and found to fly 35 miles an hour, migrating geese 44.3 miles, a flock of ducks 47.5 miles. A British aviator, Col. Meinertzhagen has published in *The Ibis* the following speeds of birds observed by him: "Small Passerine birds, 20-37 miles per hour; crows, 31-45 miles; geese, 42-55 miles; ducks, 44-59 miles; Starlings, 38-40 miles; falcons, 40-48 miles; waders, 34-51 miles per hour."

Probably the greatest speed recorded with any accuracy is that of some Indian Swifts which were timed, with stop-watches, over a two-mile course, at from 171.4-200 miles per hour. (*British Birds*, Vol. XVL, 1922, p. 31.) Our own chimney swifts are probably our swiftest flyers—they actually name themselves!

However, all this does not mean that birds migrate, day after day, at their top speed. While some birds, like the Arctic Tern and the Golden Plover cover great distances without stopping to rest, most birds do not, as a rule travel very far in a single flight. True, a Robin, for instance, may travel a hundred or even two hundred miles in a single flight, but after each one they usually remain about a stop-over, or resting place, it may be for several hours a day, or even a week. We hear reports, for instance, of a Scarlet Tanager being seen in a neighborhood for several days, or a week, although our own—we call it our own, because nearly every year we see a scarlet in the wild tangle beyond the garden and stream—seems to take but a brief rest.

As to those leisurely stops: "The spring advance of the robin" says Dr. Allen, averages only 13 miles a day from Louisiana to southern Minnesota. The rate increases gradually to 31 miles a day in southern Canada, 52 miles per day by the time it reaches central Canada, and a maximum of 70 miles a day when it reaches Alaska." Remember, however, this is an *average* for a species. There would be variations, of course, in individuals.

Wells W. Cooke, another authority on migration ("Our Greatest Travelers," *National Geographic Magazine*, Vol XXII, 1911, pp. 346-365), has estimated that counting actual flying time and resting, most birds flying from the Canadian border to the Gulf probably average about 23 miles daily. The fall migration is much more leisurely than the spring one—probably mainly because there is not the urge to get to the breeding grounds.

Night Flyers Predominate

Although some birds fly only by day, others only by night, and some both by day or night, most migration is nocturnal. "As a rule all small, shy or weak-flying birds migrate at night; all large, bold, strong-flying birds or species able to feed as they go, migrate by day. Food is the great factor in making nocturnal migration predominant. Those able to feed as they fly go by day (swallow, Night Hawk, etc.) In other birds the stomach is empty after a long trip. If the trip ended in the evening they would have little time to feed before night; as it is, they land in the early morn and after a short rest have all day to feed—or refuel." (Allan Cruickshank, in lecture at Audubon Nature Camp, Maine.)

In *The Book of Bird Life*, Dr. Allen makes this clear and dramatic. "The necessity for migrating by night is shown when birds arrive at the Gulf of Mexico or other large body of water where it is impossible to get food of any kind. If they started early in the morning, so as to be across by night, they would not be able to get much food before starting, and by the time they reached the other side, it would be dark and again impossible to feed. Thus an interval of 36 hours would pass without food, a period that might result disastrously for many birds because of their high rate of metabolism.. If, however, they spend the day feeding and migrate by night, their crops are full when they start, and, when they arrive on the other side, it is daylight and they can begin immediately to glean their living."

That is why so often, at Brookside, our trees about the little stream in the wild willowy tangle beyond, are often literally alive with warblers, vireos and other small birds, when we go "birding" at dawn, during the peak of migration. There has been a "wave of Warblers" arriving during the night, or at dawn, and they feed before quieting down to rest. When we go out a little later in the morning, all may be quiet. This does not mean they have gone on, but that they are probably resting, in a still more secluded tangle of treetops.

Birds Against the Moon

During the nights of migration, when many birds are flying, often from favorable places such as hilltops or even roof-tops along the birds' flyways, one can hear their soft call-notes almost constantly. The hilltops are nearer the birds, and city lights bring the birds nearer. Light seems to attract them.

At Madison, Wisconsin, an ornithologist states that one night some 2,800 bird calls were heard, the average being about twelve a minute, but at times so many calls were heard that the air above must have been thronged with birds. Dr. Chapman also tells of watching birds through a telescope which had been turned on the full moon, which thus formed a background against which the birds were seen to cross. A small or low-powered telescope was used in order that all the moon might be in the field of vision. Once he saw 262 birds cross the moon between the hours of eight

and eleven. Just three hours! And this, of course, was only an infinitesimally small bit of sky through which birds were winging their way.

What guides these winged travelers on their journeys across unfamiliar countries and wide seas? How do they find their way? The sense of sight, powerful as it is, is generally discredited as so many more birds travel by night than by day, and some fly high enough so that sight would be of little use, anyhow. And, although a bird's sense of hearing is acute, and it is recognized that bird calls do help keep a flock together, still there are no calls ahead, to direct the leader. What is it that sends the old gander who may be leading the flying wedge on, on, winging his way through the blue? Always the answer seems to be the same—that instinctive sense of direction coupled with the homing instinct.

Perils of the Way

Heavy toll is taken of bird life at all times, but especially during migration. Storms often overtake birds. Once, after a storm on Lake Michigan, the shores of the lake were strewn with tens of thousands of bird bodies. Severe Texas "northerers" are often responsible for other thousands of deaths. During a northern flight of long-spurs, which are hardly birds of the Far North, and so have remarkable resistance to cold, a great blizzard overtook them in Minnesota and millions perished.

In February of 1895 the Bluebird, beloved by all, came very near extermination because of a severe blizzard which coated with ice the earth and trees and shrubs of all the eastern part of the country, even deep into the South, where so many Bluebirds were wintering. It lasted several days and the Bluebirds were unable to break the ice-coating which covered every bit of food. Bluebirds were starved and frozen by untold thousands. I have heard our own Dr. C. S. Brimley tell that for many years following, a Bluebird was one of the country's rarest birds. Only in recent years has it regained its old numbers.

The hawks, Cooper's, Sharp-shinned and Duck Hawk, prey on migrating birds; and man-made perils, such as telephone and power lines, tall buildings, monuments, and light-houses take their toll, sometimes in surprising numbers. Robert Overing, a fellow N. C. B. C. member, once gave an entire program to our Raleigh Bird Club on the study he had made, while resident in Washington, D. C., of the birds killed by flying against that city's beautiful—and tall—monument. As many as 700 birds have been picked up in one month about the base of the Statue of Liberty.

Too, during migration, and especially in the fall, thousands of single birds stray from the proper line of flight and lose their way. Sometimes storms drive them far out to sea, and they perish. Every few years, along our coast, there are reports of Dovekie flights, following storms from the northeast. Many of these birds reach our coasts in emaciated condition, and at times dozens of dead bodies are washed up along our shores.

The toll is heavy, the peril great. Yet a vast majority of birds come through safely. That any come through, and some of them banded, so those are accurate records, return to the same place year after year, is almost a "winged miracle." Which only adds to the mystery and thrill—almost the magic—of migration.

AUDUBON ART TOURS, available for exhibition in museums, libraries, art institutes, and other meeting places, may be locally sponsored by any organization interested in stimulating public interest in the out-of-doors and wide use of natural resources. Artists represented include such notable bird painters as Allan Brooks, Louis Agassiz Fuertes, R. Bruce Horsfall, Athos Menaboni, Roger Tory Peterson, George Miksch Sutton, and others. The tours are scheduled on a contribution basis. For further information write: National Audubon Society, 1000 Fifth Ave., New York 28, N. Y.

Field Notes and News

CORRECTIONS PLEASE: The note titled "HORNED LARKS AT RALEIGH" on page 32 of the March 1948 issue of *The Chat*, should be credited to ERNEST MITCHELL, JR., Raleigh, instead of Sandy McCulloch. . . . And on the same page of the same March issue, in the note "RED-THROATED LOON IN INLAND NORTH CAROLINA," by E. B. Chamberlain, of the Charleston Museum, Charleston, S. C., we mis-spelled Dr. H. C. Oberholser's name.

WATER-THRUSH NEST FOUND AT RALEIGH, N. C.: Jay Johnson and I found a Louisiana Water-thrush's nest at Raleigh, N. C., during the middle of May. First one I had ever seen.

SANDY MCCULLOCH, Raleigh, N. C.

PIPITS REPORTED AT HICKORY, N. C.: A considerable flock of Pipits was seen feeding in a plowed field near the Hickory, N. C., airport, on Sept. 2. This is another early date for this species.

DAVID L. WRAY, Raleigh, N. C.

YOUNG ROBIN AT WILMINGTON, N. C.: A baby Robin, barely able to fly, was seen several times July 15, on a wall of Mrs. C. E. Black on Grace St. This record is of interest, because Robins were not known to nest in eastern North Carolina until quite recently.

EDNA LANIER APPLEBERRY

HOLBOELL'S GREBE AT GREENSBORO, N. C.: On Mar. 21, on a small reservoir in Greensboro, N. C., I observed a bird which was apparently a Holboell's Grebe. Later the same afternoon, I returned to the same pond with Dr. Archie Shaftesbury, and both of us observed the bird for a half-hour or more with a 38X telescope.

OSCAR H. PARIS, Greensboro, N. C.

KINSTON, N. C.: I was privileged to observe a flock of Baldpates (31 in number) feeding in an open, marshy pasture within 150 yards of a busy highway near Kinston on several occasions during the third week of February. Two Bald Eagles were seen flying northward over our farm near Kinston, on May 3rd, the first observed in this locality in many years. Several pairs of Orchard Orioles nested about our home this year, which was quite an increase over the past two years when only one pair was observed.

DR. G. F. PARROTT.

FRIENDLY YOUNG MOCKINGBIRD: On July 27 a baby Mockingbird that had left its nest in my yard the day before, or certainly not more than two days before, hopped clumsily across the grass toward me, at my call, and stopped to raise its wings high over its back after the well known manner of its parents—who were not present. The act was so deliberate that applause seemed to be expected. I had never before seen this performance by a fledgling. The bird's tail feathers were not over an inch long, and appeared even shorter in comparison with the more developed wings.

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, Charlotte, N. C.

POSSIBLE OBSERVATION OF WOOD IBIS NEAR HIGH POINT, N. C.: On the evening of July 1, while at the Richardson Farm south of High Point, N. C. I saw three white birds come into view almost directly south of me. They were very large, and were flying over the tree tops with rather slow heron-like wing beat, though at a somewhat more rapid rate than the ordinary speed of a Blue Heron. As they came closer, their large size and dazzling white color, and their black wing tips were plainly seen. For a time they flew rather aimlessly, as though searching for a place to alight, but when about 300 yards away, they appeared to be frightened, and began to gain altitude, flying in an easterly direction until they disappeared. At the nearest point they were over the edge of Archdale, N. C., near the Guilford-Randolph County line. A call the next morning to the Warden of the High Point Municipal Lake revealed that the Warden had seen three large white birds on one

fork of the Lake about dark the day before, but he had not observed any black on the birds.

I am quite certain that the three birds that passed over Archdale were Wood Ibis, although I must confess that an identification of an unfamiliar bird at such a distance is not very sound ornithological evidence. It is for this reason that I hope inquiry may reveal others who observed the birds in some of the ponds in this region.

JAMES MATTOCKS, High Point, N. C.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER was seen at Ridgecrest, Buncombe County, N. C., August 10, at close range, flitting low over mountain bushes but remaining close to chosen area. Had previously seen this bird during the State Bird Club's visit to Airlea, Wilmington, N. C., last spring. (The few North Carolina records of this warbler are mostly from the coastal counties, but "Birds of North Carolina," 1942, page 295, records that E. A. Williams, of the Charleston, South Carolina, Museum, found Swainson's Warblers near Tryon, Polk County, N. C., in May 1934 and May 1935.)

PHILLIPS RUSSELL, Chapel Hill, N. C.

SOME WATER BIRDS OBSERVED AT HIGH ROCK LAKE, N. C.: During the past year I have been keeping records of water birds observed at our Sea Scout base, on High Rock Lake, on the Yadkin river about 15 miles south of Lexington, N. C. During this spring not much was seen except a few hundred migrating geese. From July 24 to August 15, I saw a few species which surprised me. Here is the list: Black Tern, about 10, July 26-Aug. 15; Common Tern, About 12, July 28-August 15; Ring-billed Gull, 2, July 25-August 11; Bonaparte's Gull, 1,—unusual, August 8; Bald Eagle, 2, all summer, probably nested; Snowy Egret, 2, August 10; Pectoral Sandpiper, 1, August 2.

LARRY CRAWFORD, Greensboro, N. C.

CROW TAKES FOOD FROM SURFACE OF WATER WHILE IN FLIGHT: Shortly before noon on May 16, the writer, in company with Alexander Sprunt, Jr., and B. R. Chamberlain, was watching some Crows coursing over the upper part of Lake Tillery, on the Yadkin River, at Morrow Mountain State Park, Stanly County, N. C. The river, which is dammed, is about a half-mile wide at this part. As we were watching one Crow which was about 150 yards down stream, approximately in the center of the lake, the bird paused in flight and dipped to pick up in its beak an object from the surface of the water. As the Crow flew to the opposite side of the lake, our binoculars disclosed that the object might have been a dead frog or fish.

HARRY T. DAVIS, N. C. State Museum, Raleigh.

SOME SPRING NOTES FROM LINVILLE VALLEY (N. C.): On May 13, 1948, while at Pineola, Avery County, N. C., for a couple of days I noticed a pair of Least Flycatchers staying in some trees quite near our dwelling. Later I noticed them carrying food and found their nest with young, 15 feet up in a maple tree, within 100 feet of the house. The nest was compact, cup-shaped, and placed in an upright fork of the maple. This was an interesting find since our State Bird Records are rather short of information on the nesting of this flycatcher.

Robins seemed to be very abundant there. Several nests were found, one particularly close to the house, only six feet up in a small spruce tree in the yard, with 4 eggs. The Chestnut-sided Warbler was rather common also. A pair of House Wrens were found nesting in a hollow fence post along a road, three feet up from the ground.

Birds seen May 13 were: Turkey Vulture; Bobwhite; Dove; Yellow-billed, Black-billed Cuckoos; Chimney Swift; Hummingbird; Kingfisher; Flicker; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Downy Woodpecker; Kingbird; Crested Flycatcher; Phoebe; Least Flycatcher; Wood Pewee; Tree, Rough-winged, and Barn Swallows; Blue Jay; Crow; Chickadee; Tufted Titmouse; White-breasted Nuthatch; House, and Carolina Wrens; Mockingbird; Catbird; Brown Thrasher; Robin; Wood Thrush; Veery; Bluebird; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Cedar Waxwing; Shrike; Starling; White-

eyed, Yellow-throated, Mountain, and Red-eyed Vireos; Parula, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Black-poll, and Pine Warblers; Oven-bird; Yellow-throat; Chat; Hooded Warbler; English Sparrow; Meadowlark; Redwing; Summer Tanager; Cardinal; Rose-breasted Grosbeak; Blue Grosbeak; Indigo Bunting; Goldfinch; Towhee; Carolina Junco; Chipping, Field, and Song Sparrows. Total: 64 species.

(May 20, 1948)

DAVID AND ETHEL WRAY, Raleigh, N. C.

BIRDS BANDED AT PEA ISLAND REFUGE: On July 13, 14, and 15, with Dr. John H. Grey, Charlottesville, Va., J. W. Johnson, North Carolina State Museum, and Paul Sturm, Refuge Manager, the following colonial young birds were banded on islands near the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, Dare County, N. C.: 323 Laughing Gulls and 325 Royal Terns. Also banded were 1 Louisiana Heron; 2 Common Terns, and 2 Boat-tailed Grackles. The first 200 of the Royal Terns carry a red celluloid band above the numbered band on the right leg. The young of one pair of Cabot's Tern may be included among those listed as Royal Terns. Some birds of these species were banded at the Refuge in 1940-1941, and the intention is to do consistent banding there in the future.

HARRY T. DAVIS, Director, N. C. State Museum, Raleigh, N. C.

SPRING CENSUS AT RALEIGH, N. C., May 1, 1948: Dawn to dusk. Cool and partially cloudy in early part of day, warm and clear rest of day. Territory covered same as for Christmas census. Species observed: Pied-billed Grebe; Double-crested Cormorant; Great Blue, Little Blue, and Green Herons; American Bittern; Black Duck; Ruddy Duck; Turkey, and Black Vultures; Red-tailed, and Red-shouldered Hawks; Osprey; Sparrow Hawk; Bobwhite; Florida Gallinule; Killdeer; Spotted, and Solitary Sandpipers; Greater, and Lesser Yellowlegs; Mourning Dove; Yellow-billed Cuckoo; Great Horned, and Barred Owls; Chuck-will's-widow; Whip-poor-will; Chimney Swift; Ruby-throated Hummingbird; Kingfisher; Flicker; Red-bellied, Red-headed, Hairy, and Downy Woodpeckers; Kingbird; Crested Flycatcher; Phoebe; Acadian Flycatcher; Wood Pewee; Tree, Rough-winged, and Barn Swallows; Blue Jay; Crow; Chicadee; Tufted Titmouse; White-breasted, and Brown-headed Nuthatches; House, Carolina, and Short-billed Marsh Wrens; Mockingbird; Catbird; Brown Thrasher; Robin; Wood Thrush; Hermit Thrush; Olive-backed Thrush; Gray-cheeked Thrush; Veery; Bluebird; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Cedar Waxwing; Shrike; Starling; White-eyed, Yellow-throated, Blue-headed, Red-eyed, and Warbling Vireos; Black and White, Worm-eating, Lawrence's, Parula, Yellow, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Myrtle, Yellow-throated, Black Poll, Pine, Prairie, and Palm Warblers; Oven-bird; Louisiana Water-thrush; Maryland Yellowthroat; Yellow-breasted Chat; Hooded Warbler; Redstart; English Sparrow; Bobolink; Meadowlark; Redwing; Orchard, and Baltimore Orioles; Scarlet, and Summer Tanagers; Cardinal; Rose-breasted Grosbeak; Blue Grosbeak; Indigo Bunting; Goldfinch; Red-eyed Towhee; Savannah, Grasshopper, Bachman's, Chipping, Field, White-throated, Fox, Swamp, and Song Sparrows. Total: 114 species. Observers: *D. L. Wray (compiler), Will Hon, Robt. Overing, Reid Jones, F. B. Meacham, J. Johnson, Miss Virginia Pickell, Mrs. Albert Guy, C. H. Bostian, Gene, Lee, and Lloyd Bostian, Jack Dernid, Philip Davis, E. W. Winkler and Girl Scout Troop, and Ethel Wray.*

BOTH GLOSSY AND WHITE IBISES OBSERVED AT WILMINGTON: On June 18, nine Glossy Ibises were seen flying in from the east at Masonboro Sound, near Wilmington, N. C., by Morris Emmart. Emmart called Claude McAllister and asked him to watch for them. On June 26, while fishing in the Inland Waterway in front of the McAllister place on Masonboro Sound, Claude McAllister and Don Taylor saw 9 Ibises fly in from the east; these flew low, came within 200 feet of

the boat, made a turn and flew inland toward the Cape Fear River. The plumage looked black, except on one bird which had some white. The birds flew with necks extended and heads slightly raised; definitely not Cormorants. On July 27, 15 White Ibises with black wing tips were seen flying in front of the McAllister place. They were closely followed by 15 brown, presumably immature, Ibises, with white rump patches. These were observed by Claude McAllister and Don McAllister, who observed similar formations of 15 adult and 15 immature White Ibises again in the same locality on August 1.

EDNA LANIER APPLEBERRY

WHAT BIRD IS THAT?—North Wilkesboro, N. C., May 19. Dear Mrs. Wall: One morning since returning from the Wilmington trip, I saw a bird that puzzled me, but its stay on my porch was so brief that he was gone before I could get a good look at it. Then a number of people asked me to tell them what sort of bird looks like a titmouse, but was larger and went in flocks. I thought they might be referring to Cedar Waxwings, but the wife of our minister asked the same thing—and she knew her birds and knew they were not Cedar Waxwings. Early the next morning before I was up, there was a tapping at my window, and there was the same kind of bird. Quite definitely like a Titmouse, but larger. It lacked the rusty sides of a Titmouse. Its back was dark gray, more like that of the Catbird; its breast a pearly gray, and the crest was like that of a Titmouse. After a few minutes it left its busy work at my porch and joined what was evidently a flock of its kind, but I am not sure of this last as they were too far away for me to see, even with my field glasses. Can you help us by telling what these birds are? (How would our readers agree with the identification as young or female Cardinals?—Ed.)

SPRING COUNT, GREENSBORO, N. C. The center of the Greensboro area has been moved to a point about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south-west of radio station WBIG, thus including Justamere Farm and cutting out Ritter's Lake; otherwise the region is the same as in past several years, including Pinecroft, Starmount, Municipal and Country Club Golf Courses, Richardson Estate, Starmount Farm, Hamilton Lakes, Greensboro Country Park, Greensboro-High Point Airport, and Lakes Brandt, Richland (Jeanette), Scales, Benjamin, Philadelphia, Buffalo, and Sharpe, and White Oak Pond. Deciduous and pine woodlands, 30 pct.; open fields and golf courses, 25 pct.; marsh and thickets, 10 pct.; fresh water lakes, 25 pct.; city yards, parkways, and campuses, 10 pct. May 1—4:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. Weather clear and mild, 5-15 mph wind. Twenty-five observers in 10 parties. Total hours, 83; total miles on foot, 51 $\frac{1}{2}$; total by car, 32. Double-crested Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Green Heron; Scaup; Turkey Vulture; Black Vulture; Sharp-shinned Hawk; Red-tailed Hawk; Red-shouldered Hawk; Osprey; Sparrow Hawk; Bobwhite; Turkey, 1; Killdeer, 11; Spotted Sandpiper, 32; Solitary Sandpiper, 3; Greater Yellow-legs, 4; Ring-billed Gull, 2; Dove; Yellow-billed Cuckoo; Screech Owl, 1; Chuck-will's-widow, 3; Whip-poor-will, 2; Nighthawk, 11; Chinney Swift, 138; Hummingbird, 8; Kingfisher; Flicker; Red-bellied Woodpecker; Red-headed Woodpecker; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker; Downy Woodpecker; Kingbird; Crested Flycatcher; Phoebe; Acadian Flycatcher; Wood Pewee; Horned Lark, 5; Tree Swallow, 25; Rough-winged Swallow, 8; Barn Swallow, 5; Purple Martin; Blue Jay; Crow; Carolina Chickadee; Tufted Titmouse; White-breasted Nuthatch; Brown-headed Nuthatch; House Wren; Carolina Wren; Mockingbird; Catbird; Brown Thrasher; Robin; Wood Thrush; Olive-backed Thrush, 1; Bluebird; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 3; Cedar Waxwing; Shrike; Starling; White-eyed Vireo; Yellow-throated Vireo; Red-eyed Vireo; Warbling Vireo, 2 (E. Craft and H. Medford, Jr.); Blue-headed Vireo, 5; Black and White Warbler, 13; Worm-eating Warbler, 1; Parula Warbler, 18; Yellow Warbler, 27; Magnolia Warbler, 1; Cape May Warbler, 4; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 3; Myrtle Warbler, 66; Black-

throated Green Warbler, 1; Cerulean Warbler, 1; Blackburnian Warbler, 1; Yellow-throated Warbler, 24; Black-poll Warbler, 1; Pine Warbler, 42; Prairie Warbler, 35; Oven bird, 42; Louisiana Water-thrush, 7; Maryland Yellow-throat, 49; Yellow-breasted Chat, 23; Hooded Warbler, 37; Redstart, 42; English Sparrow, 218; Meadowlark, 33; Red-winged Blackbird, 200 (est.); Orchard Oriole, 4; Baltimore Oriole, 5; Purple Grackle, 7; Cowbird, 1; Scarlet Tanager, 8; Summer Tanager, 39; Cardinal; Blue Grosbeak; Indigo Bunting; Goldfinch, 495; Towhee, 100; Savannah Sparrow, 1; Grasshopper Sparrow, 2; Bachman's Sparrow, 2; Junco, 1; Chipping Sparrow, 166; Field Sparrow, 78; White-throated Sparrow, 171; Song Sparrow, 9. Total species 112. Observers: *Miss Esther Bennett, Mrs. W. C. Carr, John Carr, Miss Inez Coldwell, Mrs. F. H. Craft, Bill Craft, Larry Crawford, Dr. Charlotte Dawley, Mrs. R. D. Douglas, C. R. Lamb, Miss Sarah Leslie, H. L. Medford, Mrs. H. L. Medford, Hugh Medford, Jr., Miss Ethel McNairy, Oscar Paris, Mr. and Mrs. George Perrett, Miss Etta Schiffman, Mrs. Edith Settan, Dr. A. D. Shaftesbury, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Swart, Dr. Wesley Taylor, Thatcher Townsend, Mrs. Margaret Wall* (Members of the Piedmont Bird Club).

SPRING COUNT AT HENDERSON, N. C.: Bottom lands and deciduous woods, 50 pct.; pine woods, 10 pct.; marshes and ponds, 25 pct.; fields and farm lands, 15 pct. May 1, 1948, 5:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Weather clear until late afternoon when slightly overcast; very slight winds. Three observers in one party. Total miles, 30 (five on foot, 25 in car). Observed: Pied-billed Grebe, Turkey, and Black Vultures; Cooper's, Red-shouldered, and Sparrow Hawks; Bobwhite; Killdeer; Spotted Sandpiper; Mourning Dove; Chimney Swift; Hummingbird; Kingfisher; Flicker; Red-bellied, Red-headed, Hairy, and Downy Woodpeckers; Kingbird; Crested Flycatcher; Phoebe; Acadian Flycatcher; Wood Pewee; Tree, and Rough-winged Swallows; Purple Martin; Blue Jay; Crow; Carolina Chickadee; Tufted Titmouse; White breasted, and Brown-headed Nuthatches; House, and Carolina Wrens; Mockingbird; Catbird; Brown Thrasher; Robin; Wood Thrush; Bluebird; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Cedar Waxwing; Shrike; Starling; White-eyed, Yellow-throated, Blue-headed and Red-eyed Vireos; Black and White, Prairie, Parula, Blue-winged, Yellow, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Myrtle, Yellow-throated, Worm-eating, Chestnut-sided, Black-poll, Black-throated Green, and Pine Warblers; Ovenbird; Louisiana Water-thrush; Yellow-throat; Yellow-breasted Chat; Hooded Warbler; Kentucky Warbler; Redstart; English Sparrow; Meadowlark; Redwing; Orchard Oriole; Scarlet, and Summer Tanagers; Blue Grosbeak; Cardinal; Indigo Bunting; Goldfinch; Towhee; Savannah, Chipping, Field, White-throated, and Swamp Sparrow. Total species: 86. Observers: *Gary, Mrs. A. W. Bachman (compiler), McCulloch*. Golden-winged Warblers were seen on Apr. 30 and May 2; Blackburnian Warblers and Veerys were seen May 2; a Canada Warbler was seen May 3; and on May 4 a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen.

Hunting a Heron Rookery in a Florida Wilderness

G. H. HOLMES, Tryon, N. C.

During early spring of this year I had a most unusual experience, which I wish other Bird Club members could have enjoyed with me. I had been looking around in the hope of discovering the nesting place of some of the many herons and egrets which frequent the lagoons and islands in the

vicinity of Dunedin, Pinellas County, on the west coast of Florida. In searching through the back country of this county, I came on a fresh water prairie of several hundred acres, covered with a heavy growth of water plants. In the middle there appeared to be a lake of perhaps 30 acres. In this lake were several small islands with scrub bushes on them, and on examining them through my glasses I could see several egrets in the bushes. Also, I saw an alligator floating in the lake. I commenced scouting around the prairie in the hope of finding some way of getting a boat launched on the lake.

After a thorough investigation, I found that the lake was surrounded in every direction by marsh several hundred feet wide, and where the marsh ended, a heavy growth of scrub palmetto began and extended back for a considerable distance. This made it seem impossible even to get to the edge of the marsh, let alone get to the lake. Besides, rattlesnakes are common and very large in such places. However, I was determined to get to the lake, so I selected a place where it seemed possible to cut through to the edge of the marsh.

I have a 15-foot aluminum canoe, very light and strong, which I carry on top of my car. I invited two members of the Clearwater, Florida, Nature Club, one a fairly expert photographer, to join me in the attempt. On March 25th, we took the car as near as possible and unloaded it. Then we cut out a way to the edge of the marsh, and carried the canoe in and launched it. Loading in camera, field glasses, etc., we set out, all three in the canoe. Using paddles to push the canoe, a foot or two at a time, through the marsh growth, after an hour and a half of very hard work, we reached the open water of the lake. We found two islands, with scrub myrtle and elder growth, none over ten feet high, and this brush was full of nests, in use. We estimated that there were not less than 500 birds on and around these islands, and not less than 200 occupied nests. The nests, located from 4 to 8 feet from the ground, each contained from 1 to 4 pale, blue-green eggs, from the size of an average hen egg down to the size of a quail egg. The nests were rather crude affairs, of sticks, slightly lower in the middle and varied from about 15 inches to 28 inches in diameter.

Of the nesting birds, I estimated that about 50 per cent were American Egrets, 20 per cent Little Blue Herons, 10 per cent Louisiana Herons, 7½ per cent Snowy Egrets, 5 per cent Cormorants, and 7½ per cent Anhingas (Water Turkeys). I could not be sure that the Anhingas were nesting, but we think they were. They were wilder than the other birds, and took to the air when we were well 200 feet away, while the other birds showed little fear, and sat around us, not more than 35 feet away, while

we photographed them. In one nest were two American Egrets about two weeks old, I should judge. Besides the above mentioned birds, we saw a pair of Black-crowned Night Herons, a pair of Little Green Herons, a pair of Reddish Egret, and several Wood Ibis. There were also Coots, Florida Gallinules, Pied-billed Grebes, and, circling high above we saw eight immature Bald Eagles, apparently practicing flying. There are a good many Eagle's nests in this county, which they use from year to year. They nest in the winter, and the young come off in later winter and remain in the vicinity of the nest until early summer, when they migrate north, possibly to the Great Lakes, returning to Florida in September.

Having known this coast for many years, it is a great pleasure to know that the water birds are increasing, whereas a generation ago they were on the decrease.

Another Purple Gallinule Found in North Carolina

On May 29, 1948, Ellis E. Fleming found a male Purple Gallinule near the power line on U. S. Highway No. 1, near Manson, Warren County, N. C. It died on June 2, and he sent it to the State Museum. Upon skinning the bird and examining the testes, I found that they were quite large. This indicates a breeding bird.



Purple Gallinule taken May 29, 1948, near Manson, Warren County, N. C. (Photo by courtesy N. C. State Museum.)

The Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinica*) has extended its range from the South American marshes as far north as Texas, Louisiana and South Carolina. This bird, which in Audubon's time was considered rare in South Carolina and Georgia, is now common in these states. Mr. Wayne states in "Birds of South Carolina" (1910, page 40): "This beautiful and graceful summer resident is locally abundant during the breeding season on abandoned rice plantations, and also on fresh water rivers where the Wampee (*Pontederia cordata*) grows in profusion. This plant bears purplish blue flowers which act as a protective coloration to this species. Where the plant is growing in profusion the gallinules are always most abundant, but where it is absent scarcely more than one or two pairs can be found. The birds generally

arrive between April 10 and 17, and are common by the 25th.

In "Birds of North Carolina," (1942, page 119-120), there are listed seven records of their occurrence in North Carolina, distributed from Iredell and Wake Counties to New Hanover, Onslow, Craven, Carteret, and Currituck Counties. To these records is added the statement that Churchill Bragaw frequently saw them about Orton Plantation, Brunswick County, N. C., from May 1939 to 1942.

J. W. JOHNSON, N. C. State Museum, Raleigh, N. C.

With the Editor

DATES FOR 1948 CHRISTMAS COUNT are December 25 to January 2, inclusive. Now is the time to begin to check over your local area for your Christmas count and get your plans organized. Local clubs, groups, and individuals are asked to make counts wherever possible. Enlist the help of every local bird enthusiast in this enjoyable game and see that beginners go with more experienced observers.

BUCHHEISTER TO TALK AT WILMINGTON, N. C.: Carl W. Buchheister of the National Audubon Society, will be in Wilmington, N. C. Monday, Nov. 8, to give his lecture, "Wildlife Down East," illustrated with colored moving pictures. The lecture-entertainment, which is sponsored by the Wilmington Bird Club, will be presented at 8:15 p.m., at the New Hanover High School, in Wilmington.

NEW MEMBERSHIPS received now will be credited for the entire year of 1949, and in addition will receive the November 1948 *Chat* free. If you need some membership blanks, drop a card to Robert Overing, Membership Chairman, Carolina Bird Club, Route 4, Raleigh, N. C. How about increasing the number of \$5.00 Supporting Members from your locality? The Carolina Bird Club could greatly increase its usefulness if more funds were available. Send all subscriptions and applications for membership to Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, Treasurer, Carolina Bird Club, 6 Springdale Court, Greensboro, N. C.

SCHOOL SCIENCE CLUBS: More than 10,000 schools in the United States of America and many foreign countries are taking part in a program set up by Science Clubs of America, a non-profit organization sponsored by Science Service, Washington, D. C. SCA aids students and teachers in organizing local science clubs. It suggests projects, tells how to get science publications free or at low cost, and helps various local groups to work together. Teachers or students interested in organizing or joining a science club, if their school does not already have one, should write to: Science Clubs of America, 1719 N Street N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

HAWK MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY visited each autumn by hundreds of people, comprises 1401 acres of mountain-top and woodland in eastern Pennsylvania, and is in the southward migration path of many thousands of hawks and eagles. The migrations start in September and last until late in November, more eagles coming toward the end of the migrations. The movement of the birds depends upon the weather in regions north of Pennsylvania, but flights of from fifty to two hundred hawks may be witnessed fairly regularly. Information regarding the Sanctuary and the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association may be secured from Maurice Broun, Curator, at Dreherrsville, Pa., which is about 25 miles north of Reading, Pa. Note: Letters sent to Broun must be sent to Route 2, Kempton, Pa., since Dreherrsville has no postoffice.

NORTH CAROLINIANS ATTEND MAINE AUDUBON NATURE CAMP: Four North Carolinians, Miss Margaret Watson of Elm City and Raleigh, N. C., Miss Tommie Tomlinson, Girl Scout executive from Burlington, N. C., Miss Etta Schiffman, Greensboro, N. C. and Mrs. F. H. Hugh Craft, Greensboro, N. C., each attended a two weeks' session at the National Audubon Society's Nature Camp, at Medomak (pronounced Me-DOM-ak, they tell us), Maine, during the past summer. Miss Margaret Y. Wall, Greensboro, N. C., Treasurer of Carolina Bird Club, was an instructor at the Maine camp, in charge of Nature Activities, during the entire ten weeks session. Miss Watson, who teaches at the North Carolina School for the Blind, Raleigh, was the recipient of a one hundred dollar scholarship for the Audubon camp, given by the Carolina Bird Club.

New and Reinstated Members of Carolina Bird Club

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(Notification of correction or change of address should be sent to: Dr. Archie D. Shaftesbury, Editor *The Chat*, W. C. U. N. C., Greensboro, N. C.)

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The Chat

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Wild Turkey, *Meleagris gallopavo*

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The Chat

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DR. ARCHIE D. SHAFESBURY, *Editor*

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VOLUME XII

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CONTENTS

	Page
Carolina Bird Club Field Trip to Lake Mattamuskeet, Jan. 15, 1949	73
Fall Meeting Held at Tryon, N. C.	73
Christmas Bird Count, Dec. 25 to Jan. 2	75
Local Club News— <i>B. R. Chamberlain</i>	76
An American Discovers British Birds— <i>Jack Dermid</i>	78
Contribution of the Carolina Bird Club Education Chairman — <i>Richard L. Weaver</i>	80
Lennon's Marsh— <i>J. L. Stephens</i>	82
Field Notes and News	84
With the Editor	86
Cover Photo from the American Museum of Natural History, New York	

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Carolina Bird Club Field Trip to Lake Mattamuskeet, January 15, 1949

According to trip co-chairman Bob Wolff, plans have been completed for Carolina Bird Club's field trip to Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, Hyde County, N. C., for the week-end of January 15th. If you plan to go *make your reservations immediately* to Mr. Axon Smith, Manager, Mattamuskeet Lodge, New Holland, N. C. There are only 20 rooms at the Lodge, so reservations must be made early to be sure of accommodations. Arrivals can be arranged for as early as Friday afternoon. State whether you expect to remain Sunday night. Rates: \$7.25 for single room with bath and 3 meals; \$6.25 for single room without bath, and 3 meals; \$5.75 double room (each), no bath, 3 meals. Separate meals: Breakfast, 85c; Lunch \$1.25; Supper, \$1.75.

The manager states that he can put up about 70 people. If more come, 10 can be taken care of in the dormitory at \$5.25 each.

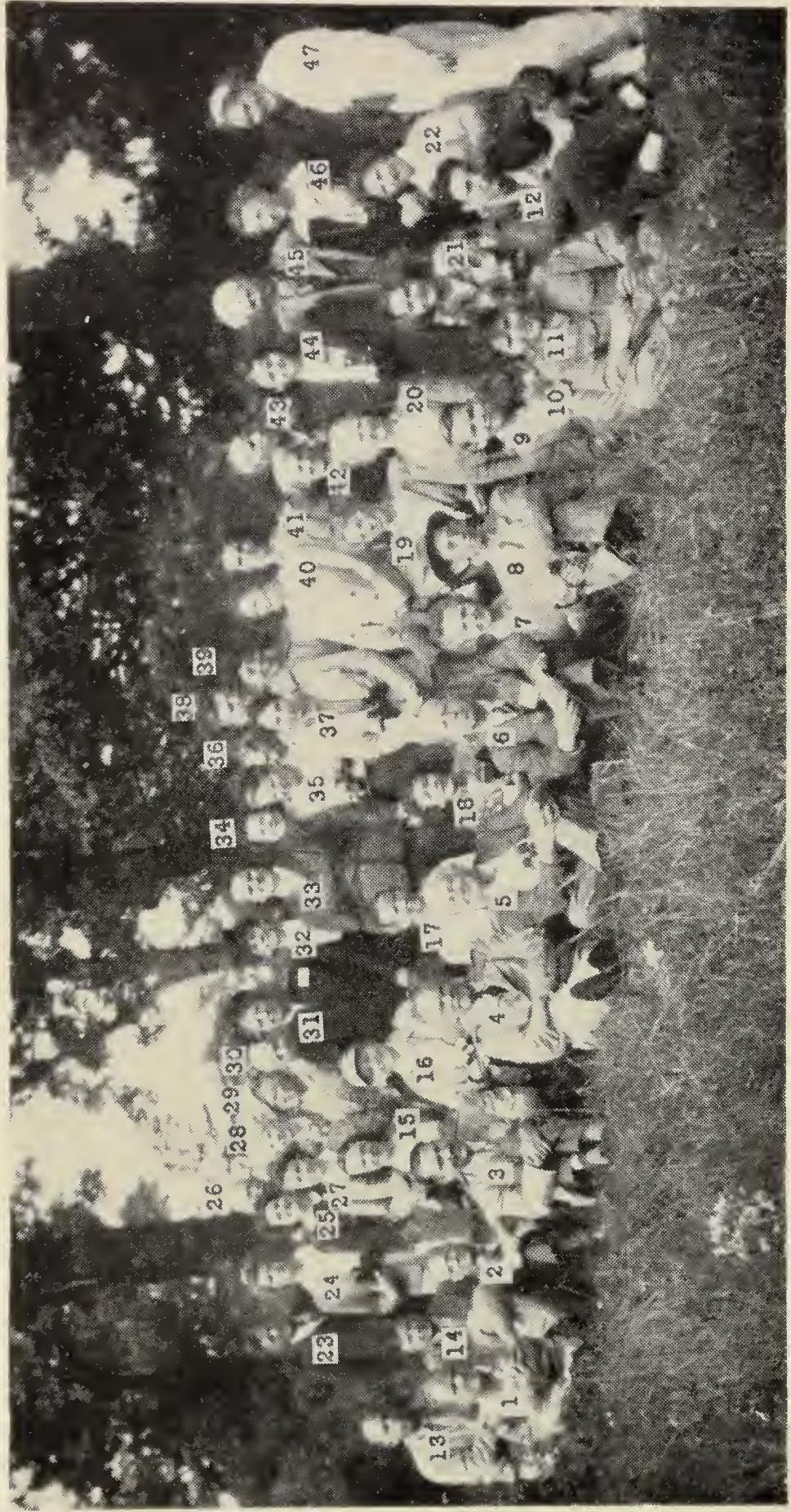
A Field Trip is planned for Saturday morning, and another for that afternoon. Trucks will be available.

Plans for this field trip were started at the Tryon meeting, and arrangements have just been completed in time to get this brief notice in this issue of *The Chat*. The chief bird attraction will be thousands of Canada Geese and Whistling Swans, as well as many other varieties of water and song birds. Since the North Carolina Bird Club has already made three field trips to the Mattamuskeet-Swanquarter region, many of those who make this trip will doubtless be "repeaters"; those who have been there need not be told of the fine time they will have.

Fall Meeting Held at Tryon, N. C.

The fall meeting of the Carolina Bird Club, the first meeting since the North Carolina and the South Carolina groups merged this year, was held at Tryon, N. C., on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 2 and 3, and was well attended. Seventy members registered at the meeting, with splendid representation from both Carolinas. On Saturday afternoon, an Executive Committee meeting was held at the meeting headquarters, Oak Hall Hotel, and field trips were conducted around Lake Lanier, and to the home of the Tryon Bird Club President, George H. Holmes. While at the Holmes place, the group got excellent views of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, apparently in migration, and Mr. Holmes showed colored pictures of birds taken on a recent trip to Florida.

At the dinner meeting and program, held at Oak Hall Hotel Saturday night, President B. R. Chamberlain presided. Mr. Holmes welcomed the visitors to Tryon,



FALL MEETING, CAROLINA BIRD CLUB, TRYON, N. C., OCTOBER 2-3, 1948

2. J. W. Clinard, Hickory, N. C.; 3. Robert Overing, Raleigh, N. C.; 4. Archie Shaftesbury, Spartanburg, S. C.; 5. Gabriel Cannon, Spartanburg, S. C.; 6. Thomas Parks, Lenoir, N. C.; 7. Mrs. B. R. Chamberlain, Matthews, N. C.; 8. J. W. Warlick, Hickory, N. C.; 9. Burns Nesbitt, Spartanburg, S. C.; 10. LeGrand Rouse, Spartanburg, S. C.; 11. Norman Chamberlain, Matthews, N. C.; 12. Scott Bryson, Spartanburg, S. C.; 13. B. R. Chamberlain, Matthews, N. C.; 14. R. H. Rembert, Asheville, N. C.; 15. Mrs. M. F. Meredith, Asheville, N. C.; 16. Mrs. G. C. Potter, Charlotte, N. C.; 17. Miss Ruth Gilreath, Travelers Rest, S. C.; 18. Mrs. Clyde Sisson, Columbia, S. C.; 19. Miss Genevieve Moore, High Point, N. C.; 20. Miss May W. Puett, Greenville, S. C.; 21. Miss Helen Myers, Lenoir, N. C.; 22. Mrs. Archie D. Shaftesbury, Greensboro, N. C.; 23. Fred May, Lenoir, N. C.; 24. Mrs. Fred May, Lenoir, N. C.; 25. Mrs. Robert Overing, Raleigh, N. C.; 27. Mrs. William Fayer, Columbia, S. C.; 28. Miss Minnie Gwaltney, Hickory, N. C.; 29. Mrs. Charlotte Hilton Green, Raleigh, N. C.; 31. Mrs. Edith M. Sherrod, High Point, N. C.; 32. Mrs. C. B. Mattocks, High Point, N. C.; 33. Miss Rosa Lee Hart, Travelers Rest, S. C.; 35. Mrs. Cecil Appleberry, Wilmington, N. C.; 36. Mrs. J. W. Clinard, Hickory, N. C.; 37. Mrs. J. H. Sanders, Gaffney, S. C.; 38. P. M. Jennes, Greenville, S. C.; 40. Mrs. Vallette J. Harriss, High Point, N. C.; 41. Miss Gladys Hart, Travelers Rest, S. C.; 42. Mrs. E. B. Chamberlain, Charleston, S. C.; 43. E. B. Chamberlain, Charleston, S. C.; 44. Mrs. R. T. Greer, Lenoir, N. C.; 45. Mrs. J. W. Warlick, Hickory, N. C.; 46. Miss Ethel McNairy, Greensboro, N. C.; 47. Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, Greensboro, N. C.; 1. John H. Dick, Charleston, S. C.; 34. Mrs. Wade Montgomery, Charlotte, N. C.; 39. Mrs. Mary M. Guy, Raleigh, N. C.

(Photograph by R. Tom Greer, Lenoir, N. C.)

and Alexander Sprunt, Jr., of Charleston, responded. Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, Treasurer, gave a brief report of the club's finances. E. B. Chamberlain, of Charleston, told of plans for an early January field trip to Lake Mattamuskeet Wildlife Refuge, N. C., with Bob Wolff in charge, and of a field trip to Bull's Island, S. C., the date to be placed in late May, with E. B. Chamberlain in charge. The 1949 annual spring meeting of Carolina Bird Club will be held in Charleston, S. C. Mr. Sprunt displayed a painting by Francis Lee Jacques, showing four species of ducks, which is one of numerous paintings done by several noted bird artists for the new book on South Carolina birds, which it is expected will be ready in about a year.

Dr. Archie D. Shaftesbury, Greensboro, introduced the speaker, Dr. T. L. Quay, of North Carolina State College, Raleigh, who gave an interesting talk on "The Winter Life of the Savannah Sparrow," a bird which has apparently moved inland as the forests were cut and the crab grass and broom sedge took their place. Mrs. Charlotte Hilton Green, Raleigh, nationally known writer of books and nature articles, described some of her nature observations during the past summer in Colorado, when she added more than 30 new bird species to her life list. Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, who had charge of the Nature Activities at the Medomac, Maine, Camp of the National Audubon Society during the past summer gave a brief account of her work at the camp.

Door prize at the Saturday night meeting, a porcelain plate bearing a bird picture, was won by Mrs. J. E. Ryland, Union Mills, N. C. A bird feeding station, designed by Dr. John Z. Preston, was shown by Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Brintnall, Tryon. Lovely decorations for the table and for the hotel lobby were provided and arranged by the Tryon Garden Club. Following the evening meeting, Dr. Shaftesbury showed two of the National Audubon Society's new sound and color bird movies, Robin, and Wood Thrush.

Early Sunday morning, the group gathered at Seven Hearths, the Brintnall home, which is crammed full, and I do mean full, of antiques, for coffee and doughnuts, as fortification for field trips led in various directions by E. B. Chamberlain, Gabriel Cannon, Spartanburg, S. C., and others. After a group picture and breakfast back at the Oak Park Hotel, the remainder of Sunday forenoon was spent on a trip to the beautiful Pearson's Falls sanctuary, near Tryon, preserved through the work of the Tryon Garden Club. Many who attended the Tryon meeting mentioned the fine spirit of fellowship which pervaded the meeting. Surely none of the general meetings have been more thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

Christmas Bird Count, Dec. 25 to Jan. 2

This year, as in the past several years, Carolina Bird Club will cooperate with the National Audubon Society in making the Christmas count of the number and kinds of birds in various localities throughout the nation. Last year *The Chat* printed counts from 16 localities, including 2 in South Carolina. We hope to have more this year, particularly from South Carolina. Local clubs, groups, and individuals are urged to make counts wherever possible.

Rules

When the National Audubon Society announced the dates for the 1948 count, it was stated that new rules would be issued this year. As this note is written the new rules are not yet available. If you do not have a list of the new rules from the National Audubon Society, drop a card to the Editor, *The Chat*, W. C. U. N. C.,

Greensboro, N. C., and we will send you an abbreviated list just as soon as the new rules are available.

BUT PLEASE REMEMBER, in order to be published in the January issue of *The Chat*, lists from C. B. C. members must be received by the editor of *The Chat* not later than Saturday, January 8; the birds *must* be listed in the order of the A. O. U. check list (as in most recent bird books); lists should be typewritten if possible and double-spaced. (Note: Single-spaced lists, or lists readable with difficulty owing to thin paper or poor carbon copy will have to be recopied and will appear in a later issue of *The Chat*.)

Be sure to get the new National Audubon Society rules for your count.

Local Club News

(Very meager this time. Contributors are bashful or busy or both. Can't *you* do something about it? Just appoint yourself a contributor and put something in the mail.

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, "Critter Hill," Rt. 1, Matthews, N. C.)

ASHEVILLE BIRD CLUB anticipates another successful season with Audubon Screen Tours. Our Clubs would do well to check with the Asheville folks to learn their methods.

CHAPEL HILL BIRD CLUB—Enjoyed a wonderful evening on Nov. 9th, with the Broleys, of Delta, Ontario. Mr. Broley, many of our membership will recall, is the retired banker who took up eagle banding as a hobby. His work has been featured in the Audubon magazine and other publications. He has banded more than one thousand bald eagles. The Broleys are again spending the winter in Florida. Chapel Hill Bird Club also has Screen Tours this winter.

CHARLESTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY: E. B. Chamberlain and Alexander Sprunt, Jr., attended the annual meeting of the American Ornithological Union at Omaha, Nebraska. They were also present and gave good accounts of themselves at Tryon. They had a close schedule in getting to Omaha immediately after Tryon.

GREENVILLE (S. C.) BIRD CLUB: Miss May Puett, President of the Greenville Club was honor guest at the Lenoir Bird Club meeting when Bert Harwell spoke there. Miss Puett writes that she and some club members have just experienced a successful "bird breakfast" in the woods and that she is sending a list of birds seen. Our hat is off to Miss Puett. She has been in Greenville only a few months and she has already stirred up enough enthusiasm to get folks moving before breakfast. The December meeting subject is kinglets.

HICKORY BIRD CLUB—Put out another good Year Book. September and October meetings featured plans for the year, a talk by

J. W. Clinard on bird songs, and a talk by Arthur Moser on plumage. At the invitation of Miss Ann Miller, representing seven garden clubs of Hickory, the Hickory Bird Club entered an attractive exhibit in the October flower show. This display featured a miniature bird sanctuary prepared by Mrs. E. B. Menzies with the help of Miss Minnie Gwaltney and Mrs. Homer Robinson and others. The exhibit included examples of bird houses and feeders.

LENOIR BIRD CLUB: A nice letter from Mrs. R. T. Greer reviews the Club activities since July when a picnic was held at Tom Parks' place. Your Club News Editor knows the setting well. He was royally entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Parks at their home last spring. Mrs. Greer tells of the visit of Bert Harwell to Lenoir in August, a Study of the Vireos, by Miss Helen Myers in September, and a report on the Tryon field trip of the Carolina Bird Club in October; also a review of Audubon Magazines at the October meeting by Mrs. Fred May.

LUMBERTON BIRD CLUB: Your Club News Editor ran across Lumberton Bird Club President James Stephens, Jr., at Gaddy's Goose Pond on November 14th. Both watched the three-thousand-odd Canada Geese and a lone White Fronted Goose that had come in this year. The News Editor wormed an invitation to Lumberton to look for Wood Ibises next summer.

MECKLENBURG AUDUBON CLUB (CHARLOTTE): Mrs. Potter and a handful of the faithful have released their Year Book. Sarah Nooe spoke at the October meeting. Subject: A Birder's Book Shelf. Dr. R. L. Weaver, Program Director of the North Carolina Resource-Use Commission, and a member of our own Carolina Bird Club Executive Committee, talked at the November meeting. Subject: Conservation in North Carolina. The Mecklenburg Club did not sign up for Screen Tours this year. However, the Tours are coming to Charlotte under the sponsorship of the Charlotte Children's Nature Museum. Highlight of the winter—a two days field trip to Bulls Island, S. C., December 10, 11, and 12. Many readers (about forty) will remember the N. C. B. C. trip to Bulls Island last year. A good trip but a little on the humid side.

PIEDMONT BIRD CLUB (GREENSBORO): Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall attended the annual meeting of the National Audubon Society. Charlotte lost and Greensboro gained an ardent birder this summer when Miss Anne Locke moved to Greensboro. Miss Locke is a past president of the Mecklenburg Audubon Club, and is field trip minded. The September meeting, held on the 18th, was a field trip with a basket supper at the

Greensboro Country Park Clubhouse. The Oct. 21 meeting, held at Woman's College science building, was interesting combination of a talk by George A. Smith and chalk drawings by Mrs. Grace Favor, on Shore Birds. Greensboro's Christmas Bird Count is planned for Sunday, Dec. 26.

RALEIGH BIRD CLUB: Don't miss Nature Magazine for November. Mrs. Charlotte Hilton Green has an excellent piece on Gaddy's Goose Refuge. The observation by Dr. A. A. Allen of Cornell is particularly interesting. He stated that in his opinion there was little danger of disease at the refuge during the winter months. That was one of the objections raised to the high concentration of birds by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A letter from Tom Quay accepts the Editorship of the Ecology and Life History Department of the Chat. Dr. Quay did an excellent job with his talk at our Tryon meeting and we can look forward to some good reading on his pages.

WILMINGTON BIRD CLUB. Carl Buchheister talked on the evening of Nov. 8th. His visit was the occasion for field trips practically around the clock. Mr. Buchheister is a Vice-President of the National Audubon Society. Many of our members will recall his visit and talk at Atlantic Beach in May, 1947. The Christmas census will be held Monday, Dec. 27.

An American Discovers British Birds

By JACK DERMID, Raleigh, N. C.

An intoxicated bird? Impossible! Yet there was one before my very eyes. Its dress was formal, too, suitable for the most elegant cocktail party. My accusation was rather harsh, but what else could I have thought upon seeing a Pied Wagtail for the first time? It was running swiftly across the ground near the brink of a gravel pit, first in one direction, then in another. After each mad dash of several yards, the bird paused for an instant and wagged its long tail rapidly up and down before running again. Astonished by the strange antics of this small, white-faced, black bird, I cautiously moved nearer to it, focused my binoculars, and found that my previous assumption was entirely wrong. The wagtail was perfectly normal. It was only chasing and catching small flying insects.

Thus began my first hike in the outdoors of Southern England. It was not an ordinary field trip, but one of discovery, in which I, an American soldier, discovered for myself the birds of another land. It was a day filled with adventures that would have brought unlimited joy to any bird lover and a day of impressions that will never be forgotten. After reading my notes again, it seems that only yesterday I left the little town of Christchurch and entered the fields and woods of Hampshire. The May weather was ideal for birding; and armed with binoculars, a field guide to birds, and a notebook, I was prepared to face all challengers of the bird world.

The wagtail soon became annoyed by my presence and flew in an undulating manner toward the distant side of the quarry. As it disappeared from sight, a series of plaintive notes, so quiet and soft, almost inaudible, drifted from a nearby group of trees. I made my way to the edge of the woods and listened. Again, as melancholy

as before, a hidden singer interrupted the silence of the countryside. And only a few moments passed before I discovered a British Robin perched on a low branch of a maple. When I walked toward it, the bird merely cocked its head to one side and studied me curiously with its large friendly eye. Man and bird watched each other quietly. What a dainty creature it was, half the size of an American Robin, with an orange-red breast and olive-brown upper parts. Then the robin raised its head slightly, and motionlessly, save for its beak, told me of its sorrow with song.

After leaving the woods, I followed a paved road past several houses and found a variety of birds about the lawns and gardens. Of course, English Sparrows scolded each other incessantly, and Starlings crackled, grunted and whistled from a sun-bathed perch; but, somehow, the two vagrants seemed to fit into the scheme of things. A Song Thrush, a great deal like our Wood Thrush in appearance, searched the ground for earthworms in the gentlemanly manner that is typical of its family. Some distance ahead on a picket fence, a pair of Chaff-finches was courting in bird fashion. A frequent visitor of our tent area, this species captured my admiration the first time I saw it, partly because it reminded me of the Lazuli Bunting of our western states and partly because it was so friendly. It is one of the most common birds of Britain; and no rural scene is complete without the handsome male, decorated with a bluish head and nape, a russet throat and breast, and a conspicuous white patch on each shoulder.

When I entered a dense woods, I heard the loud, strident song of a bird that unmistakably belonged to a wren. It could not have been anything else! And a hasty search revealed the bold singer perched upon a prominent snag. It was a wren, indeed, short upright tail and all, but a mite of a bird, even smaller than our House Wren. When it sang, the bird put its whole heart into producing music, and its tiny body shook all over.

Continuing along the path, I flushed a blackbird that was scratching about in the undergrowth. It was the first British Blackbird that I had observed close at hand, and I was amazed by the similarity of its alarm note with that of the American Robin. In fact, if I had not seen the bird, I would have identified it as the latter species. In an effort to study it further, I followed the blackbird for a short distance through the woods. It was a more beautiful bird than its name implied, for its black plumage contrasted sharply with its orange bill and the yellow rim around each eye. And it was definitely an artist at sneaking through thickets and keeping out of sight.

My introduction to the female Blackbird, a brown-colored bird, was quite startling. As I crossed a small stream on a fallen tree, the bird burst forth from under my feet, protesting loudly as it flew away. I parted the vines that clothed the log and found a nest constructed snugly in a cavity. It contained four greenish-colored eggs, heavily speckled with reddish-brown, and was composed of coarse grass, solidified with mud, and lined with fine grass. During the time I was there, I did not hear or see the female Blackbird again, or her mate; but from a point downstream, I saw her slip back to her cherished eggs.

Along the creek, I made a brief acquaintance with the European Kingfisher, a bird about half the size of the American species and just as unique. It flew past me like a blue rocket, disappeared among the trees, returned in an instant, paused upon a low branch for a few seconds, and then sped away. The brilliant blue of its upper parts was matched with rich chestnut below, and a large black bill, a white throat, and red feet added the finishing touches to its dress.

NESTING BOXES: Take down all your nesting boxes now and clean them thoroughly. Repair and repaint them where necessary, and replace a few for refuge for wintering woodpeckers and other birds.

Contribution of the Carolina Bird Club Education Chairman

RICHARD L. WEAVER, Program Director
North Carolina Resource-Use Education Commission

For those members of the Carolina Bird Club who are teaching or who would like to help your local schools secure materials on birds, conservation, resource use, and nature subjects generally, the Chairman of the Education Committee makes the following suggestions:

1. *Conservation Loan Packets* are available for use in schools, workshops, and teacher training programs from the U. S. Office of Education, Federal Security Agency, Washington, D. C. Sample bulletins from the U. S. Office of Education, U. S. Forest Service, U. S. Soil Conservation Service and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service are included. Address request to Glenn O. Blough.

2. *Forestry Packets* can be obtained from U. S. Forest Service, Washington, D. C., from C. W. Mattison, Educational Consultant. The packet includes the following bulletins: 1. The Work of the U. S. Forest Service; 2. Managing the Small Forest; 3. Our Forests—What They Are and What They Mean to Us; 4. Protect Hardwood Stands from Grazing; 5. Forest Service Films Available; 6. Some Plain Facts About Forestry; 7. Know Your Watersheds; 8. Suggestions for Integrating Forestry in the Modern Curriculum; 9. Teaching Outline—The Well Kept Farm Woods; 10. Materials to Help Teach Forest Conservation; 11. A Chart—How a Tree Grows; 12. Visual and Auditory Aids for Teaching Conservation; 13. Bill Scott, Forest Ranger—A Radio Production.

3. *TEN LESSONS IN FORESTRY*—For use in Grade Schools; prepared by J. Walter Myers, Jr., and published by the Divisions of Forestry and Parks in the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development, Raleigh, N. C., 1948; 56 pages. These ten lessons are: 1. Our Forests, Past and Present; 2. How Forests Affect Our Lives; 3. How a Tree Grows; 4. Some Important Southern Trees; 5. What We Get From Trees; 6. Forests Forever; 7. Wildlife in the Forest; 8. Soil, Climate, and Trees; 9. Enemies of the Forest; 10. Guardians of the Forest.

4. *Soil Conservation Service* materials available from James Burdette, Regional Office, Spartanburg, S. C., include bibliographies of available literature and films. Some of the titles for the use of teachers particularly are: 1. Bibliography—Available Literature on Conservation for Schools; 2. An Outline for Teaching Conservation in Rural Elementary Schools; 3. An Outline for Teaching Conservation in the High Schools; 4. Teaching Materials—Conservation Education in the Public Schools; 5. Motion Pictures and Slidefilms on Soil and Water Conservation, suitable for use in Elementary and Secondary Schools; 6. Water and Our Forests; 7. Our American Land—The Story of Its Abuse and Its Conservation; 8. The Lord's Land.

5. *Teaching Conservation* is a new book published by the American Forestry Association, 919 Seventeenth St., N.W., Washington, D. C. It is written by Ward P. Beard, Assistant Director, Vocational Education, U. S. Office of Education, 144 pages; price \$1.50. It is designed for conservation workshops, teacher study groups and educators generally and could serve as a text. It has many practical suggestions on organization and implementation of the program.

6. *LARGE WAS OUR BOUNTY—Natural Resources and the Schools*; was published as the 1948 Yearbook of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development of the National Education Association, 1201 Sixteenth St. N. W., Washington, D. C.; 216 pages; price \$2.50 a copy. It was prepared by a committee of seven educators and scientists with W. J. McGlothlin as Chairman. The titles of

the chapters will indicate the nature of the contents: "In What Direction Are We Moving?" "Why Are We Concerned?"; "How Much Has Our Thinking Expanded?"; "What Principles Shall Guide Us?" (This is something we have long needed and is a very significant contribution.); "What Are Schools Now Doing?"; "How May We Move Ahead?"

7. RESOURCE USE EDUCATION INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS: Three new bulletins, *Let's Save Soil with Sam and Sue*, *Better Land for Better Living*, and *Pioneers of a New South*, have just been published by Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Alabama, at 30c each for single copies and 25c each for four or more copies. Address requests in care of Otto Holloway; 28 pages each; these materials prepared in the Resource-Use Education Workshops at Auburn in 1946 and 1947 are well illustrated, and are adapted to classroom use and to the children's vocabulary.

8. *Resource Management in North Carolina*, by Paul W. Wager and Donald B. Hayman, has been published and is available from the Institute for Research in Social Science, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. It reviews the conservation and resource programs and makes recommendations for improvements.

9. *Scientists Look at Resources*. First report from Gatlinburg Conference III; has been published by the Bureau of School Service College of Education, University of Kentucky, June 1948, No. 4, 160 pages, price 50c a copy.

10. *Improving the Quality of Living*—A Study of Community Schools in the South by W. K. McCharen, Division of Surveys and Field Services, George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tenn.; has 68 pages full of excellent suggestions on how schools are helping to improve living in the South. Be sure to send for a copy.

11. THE PROJECT IN APPLIED ECONOMICS FOR BETTER LIVING—sponsored by the Sloan Foundation. Numerous reading booklets for all ages and guides for teachers have been prepared. They are designed to provide instruction on these basic life needs, prepared by three institutions; University of Kentucky, food problems; University of Vermont, ways of improving clothing conditions; and, University of Florida, housing instruction. Address Project in Applied Economics, College of Education, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, for complete price list. Prices per single copy vary from 15c to 40c with discount for quantity orders.

12. *Two New Books On Conservation* have attracted international attention. They should be read by all citizens, teachers, and people involved in planning for the future of mankind and resources. They are: *Road to Survival* by William Vogt; Book of the Month Selection and a current best seller; Will Sloane Associates; and *This Plundered Planet*, by Fairfield Osborn; Little, Brown & Co.

13. *Four new color-sound films on conservation* have been produced by the Conservation Foundation in association with the New York Zoological Society, New York City. They are being distributed by Encyclopedia Britannica Films, Inc., Wilmette, Ill. Their titles are: "The Birth of the Soil" (No. 415); "This Vital Earth" (No. 416); "The Arteries of Life," (No. 417); "Seeds of Destruction," (No. 418). The Living Earth films have been designed particularly for junior and senior high schools. They will find their greatest usefulness in general science courses and in social studies such as citizenship, problems of democracy and American history. They will be especially effective in biology and agriculture classes. Their message is of such importance that they can be utilized to great advantage in the elementary science program of the middle grades, and will prove valuable on the college level and as a basis for adult discussion groups.

The Chairman of the Education Committee will be glad to assist teachers in securing additional materials on these subjects. Address requests to Dr. Richard L. Weaver, P. O. Box 1078, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

FEEDERS: Clean your feeders and start feeding winter birds now. Provide food for these valuable allies, especially in snowy or icy weather when their own food is scarce or unavailable. Have on hand ample food for your wintering birds, and watch the weather reports for storms—snow sleet, rain.

Lennon's Marsh

J. L. STEPHENS, Lumberton, N. C.

When the late Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, internationally famous ornithologist, visited Lennon's Marsh, near Lumberton, in July, 1943, he said that there were more Water Turkeys (*Anhinga anhinga*) there than any place he had seen north of Florida. It was Dr. Pearson's last field trip, for only a few days later he died suddenly, before his impressions of Lennon's Marsh could be recorded for the enrichment of bird students.

Part of an old plantation, Lennon's Marsh contains 1100 acres of what is known as the Hawthorne grant, the deed for this tract dating back to the time of George II of England. A brief description of this unusual body of shallow water with its vegetation and physical features will help explain why it is such an attractive place for birds.

On the south side of the marsh, stretching toward the west for two miles, there is a typical pocosin area of cynthia bushes and other scrub bog vegetation. Throughout this wilderness of evergreen, which gives an impression of vast distances, there is a maze of alligator trails and small ponds, many of which are so inaccessible that they can be seen only from an airplane.

Through the center of the horseshoe-shaped marsh there is a growth of cypress trees and many swamp ponds. This feeding ground for Wood Ibis and herons is fantastically beautiful, with green duckweed forming a carpet on the water and Spanish moss waving in the wind from the branches of cypress trees.

By far the most interesting and valuable portion of the marsh is the eastern side, which covers more than half of the total acreage. Here the marsh is open, shallow water, not exceeding two and a half feet in depth, which supports vast beds of duckweeds, white water lilies, water shield, pondweeds, swamp bulrush, sedges, and other valuable aquatic plants. In the upper reaches of this great plant filled lagoon, there are many low bushes and small cypress trees, and there in this remote section of the swamp, American Egrets, Water Turkeys, Black-crowned Night Herons, Great Blue Herons, and Little Blue Herons construct their nests.

From this description of this bird reserve, it is at once apparent that it is impractical for large groups of people to observe the bird life here, due to the difficulty of poling small boats along the water trails. Despite this inconvenience, most of the members of the Lumberton Bird Club, in groups of two or three, visited the marsh in 1947.

Field trips were taken in early March to observe the spring migration of waterfowl. During the first few days of March, Golden-eyes, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Mallard, and Black Ducks were much in evidence, but by March 18th, when another boat trip was taken, the spring migration of ducks was at its height, and Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Shoveler, Baldpate, and Ring-neck Ducks outnumbered all other waterfowl. On March 18th the vanguard of the American Egrets had returned from the south and were sitting around in the bird rookeries. Also at this season the Great Blue Heron had already constructed their nests, for the Great Blue is a resident throughout the winter and the earliest nester of all the herons.

On March 28th Blue-winged Teal outnumbered all other ducks, and at this time little blue herons were observed in the vicinity of their hereditary summer nesting grounds. By April 1st, Water Turkeys were seen flying in narrow circles over the

bird rookery, and many were busy selecting nesting sites in the same trees used by American Egrets.

Ospreys, which appear to be uncommon in the autumn migration, pass over Lennon's marsh each spring in astonishing numbers from March until May.

Many local bird students enjoyed studying this migration, which in 1947 reached its height on March 21st, when 29 Ospreys were observed in one afternoon. During the period of the spring Osprey migration, an occasional Bald Eagle was seen.

Throughout the summer the bird rookery was the goal of many field trips. During six years, in cooperation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, several hundred birds have been banded, and returns received indicate that herons from Lennon's Marsh rookeries winter in the Caribbean area, and possibly in Central



Left—Young Water Turkey (30 feet up—two birds jumped and swam away but this one elected to have his picture taken); *Right Top*—Louisiana Heron; *Right Bottom*—Little Blue Heron.

(Pictures taken at Lennon Marsh by J. L. Stephens.)

America. While most returns from banded birds have been from within the United States, two records outside the United States are of interest. A Little Blue Heron, banded June 1st, 1943, was taken Dec. 2nd, 1943, at Guadalupe, French West Indies. In 1946 an American Egret, banded July 19th, was taken Nov. 17th at Port au Prince, Haiti.

The Wood Ibis is a large and spectacular bird, and members of the Lumberton bird club enjoyed field trips on which ibis were seen. Wood Ibis arrive in June and remain on Lennon's marsh, which appears to be an especially good feeding ground,

until November. Observations by bird students throughout North Carolina indicate that over most of the state Wood Ibis are of casual or accidental occurrence. However, for eighteen years the Wood Ibis has visited the marsh regularly in summer, their numbers being influenced by water levels and food conditions. Of more than usual interest is the fact that most of the ibis appear to be immature. It is probable that, like their fellow waders, the herons, they straggle northward after the breeding season. In January and February Wood Ibis are known to nest in the Cape Sable region of Florida, and it is possible that young ibis reaching Lennon's marsh in June are from southern nesting grounds. Banding would no doubt add much new information to what is now known about ibis migrations. No Wood Ibis have been known to nest in North Carolina.

While volumes could be written about Lennon's marsh without doing justice to its exotic loveliness, in the final analysis it is the great variety of vegetation found here that supplies bird life with food, nesting territory, and all the conditions necessary for a suitable environment. Lennon's marsh is a biological wonderland, a great outdoor laboratory for the bird student and the ecologist.

Field Notes and News

CHARLOTTE, N. C.: Some fall migrants: On Sept. 8, I observed 2 Louisiana Water-Thrushes, a Bobolink in fall plumage, a Parula Warbler, and numerous Redstarts.

ERNEST E. MITCHELL, JR.

GADDY'S GOOSE POND, ANSONVILLE, N. C.: Announcing the arrival of the first wild Canada Geese of the 1948-1949 season: 22 Canada Geese arrived Oct. 3; 19 Canada Geese Oct. 4; also a few ducks. MR. AND MRS. LOCKHART GADDY

(Note: Be sure to read the splendid article on Gaddy's Goose Pond written by Charlotte Hilton Green, in the current issue of *Nature Magazine*.—Ed.)

HUMMINGBIRD CATCHES GNATS IN FLIGHT: I saw a Hummingbird catching gnats on the wing. She flew into a swarm of gnats, and caught several before leaving the swarm. The gnats were flying in the street, and I saw the hummer fly into the swarm and attack them until my approaching car frightened her away.

(Sept. 12, 1948.) J. W. CLINARD

HERRING GULLS EXTENDING NESTING RANGE SOUTHWARD: A note by Howard H. Cleaves in Proceedings of the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences, Vol. II, part 1, Oct. 1948, p. 17-ff., mentions his discovery of a Herring Gull's nest with two eggs, on Staten Island, in New York City, on June 4th, 1948. A second visit to the locality, on June 20, revealed that the eggs and nest had been abandoned.

A MOTTLED SUMMER TANAGER AT TRYON, N. C.: A pair of Summer Tanagers has been feeding their young from the feeding board of one of my neighbors. The female is the usual color, but the male is a patchwork of red and olive. The head and upper neck are red, above and below. The lower neck and back are olive green. The lower back, including the upper part of the tail, is red. The lower half of the tail is olive green. Underneath, except for the throat, the bird is olive green. I believe that this is a one-year-old Summer Tanager. I have heard it said that the male of this species is not all red until his third summer, though none of the bird books that I have mention this unusual fact. Has any reader of *The Chat* any definite, authoritative information on this? G. H. HOLMES, Tryon, N. C.

ROBINS WORK 21 HOURS A DAY IN ARCTIC ALASKA: Martin Karplus, Harvard University science student, and his chief, Dr. Donald R. Griffin, who spent

the past summer in the region of Point Barrow, Alaska, on a Navy-sponsored study of bird migration, spent part of their time observing the work of a pair of Robins at a spot about 100 miles southeast of Pt. Barrow, which is the "farthest north" for the species. They reported that the parent birds toiled all day and nearly all the midnight-sunned night feeding the young. Only around midnight did they catch a little sleep, under the still-bright sky. Then they were at it again, with the result that the young robins grew very rapidly and were ready to attempt their first flight in ten days, instead of the two weeks or so required in the lower latitudes.

DR. FRANK THONE, Science Service, Washington, D. C.

MIGRATING BIRDS KILLED IN FOG: Daily newspapers reported many hundreds of migrating birds killed or injured by striking the Empire State Building in New York City from 1:00 A.M. to near dawn on the morning of Sept. 11. According to United Press reports, similar tragedies were reported in down town Philadelphia and Nashville, Tenn. Such incidents occur about the same time each year, but this year's mass death was by far the worst yet seen in New York City. Lee Crandall, Curator of the Bronx Zoo, identified Red-eyed Vireos and eleven species of warblers among the dead and injured birds.

A. D. S.

PROTECTING RARE BIRDS: A brief article in the April 13th issue of *The (London) Times*, tells something of the 1947 annual report of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and states: ". . . The Society paid a reward of £10 for every Golden Eagle eyrie from which young flew. Every claim was checked, and eaglets were proved to have been reared at 23 sites. This year rewards are being offered for the rearing of a dozen rare species, particulars of which were given in a letter published in *The Times* of April 7." We may have to come to "rewards" in order to protect our American Bald Eagle and other disappearing species.

J. S. HOLMES, Raleigh, N. C.

WILMINGTON, N. C.: Here are a few selected records from the winter season notes, Dec. 1, 1947-April 1, 1948, from the Wilmington area, which might be of interest. On Dec. 29, 1947, a flock of between 60 and 70 Blue-headed Vireos were observed on Masonboro Sound, by Claude H. McAllister, Jr. On Web. 3, between Greenfield Lake and Wrightsville Sound, Appleberry and Baker saw at least 200 Fox Sparrows in flocks of from 10 to 50. Mrs. W. C. Mebane had been reporting unusual numbers of Fox Sparrows in her yard. Here are some of the spring arrivals: Painted Bunting, seen and heard at Masonboro Sound, March 7, by McAllister; Yellow-throated Warbler, March 19, Cecil Appleberry; White-eyed Vireo, March 20, Cecil Appleberry; Bachman's Sparrows, and Prairie Warblers—both singing, March 26, Dr. A. A. Allen, John Funderburg, E. L. A. During the winter huge flocks of Cedar Waxwings were reported from all over the country. Several times Mrs. Mebane had flocks estimated at 1,000. She also reported many Cowbirds. We have never had many Cowbirds reported before. EDNA LANIER APPLEBERRY

CHARLOTTE, N. C.: For more than a year I have had under observation a field near my home in the southern part of Charlotte. A stream crosses the field and this and adjacent areas are favorable for nearly every kind of bird, breeding birds and migrants, found in the Charlotte area. On May 8, I observed, along the stream, 2 Solitary Sandpipers, and a Spotted Sandpiper. Later I found a Killdeer feeding along some water filled plow furrows. Following with the binoculars the flight of a Shrike, I found the adult carrying food to three young in a nest which certainly looked as though it had been used for at least two seasons. Visits to "my birding grounds" during June showed some newcomers, some Red-wing Blackbirds, four females and one male. At first I found a single nest with a single egg. Later, as the birds were well on their way to raising their broods of the season, the beautiful male bird seemed

to be the sole defender and mate of the four females. On explaining this circumstance to an ornithological authority in Washington, D. C., I was told that such polygamy was a not uncommon occurrence in this species. I was also lucky enough to find a nest with three young Yellow Warblers, about six feet above the ground.

ERNEST E. MITCHELL, JR.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.: On Saturday, Oct. 3, I saw a great many warblers in the garden. For about two hours the trees were full of Parula, Hooded, Black-throated Green, Prairie, and Orange-crowned Warblers. At 11:00 a.m. there wasn't one in the garden that I could see, and by 12:00 every tree was full so I ran from one place to another watching them. Then by 2:30 they had passed through the garden. I would see as many as 6 and 8 Orange-crowned at a time. I also saw Orange-crowned Warblers in the garden Oct. 10th.

ELIZABETH BARNHILL CLARKSON.

With the Editor

AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS FOR CLUBS AND CLASSES—are listed in the new Audubon catalog. Write to: Photo and Film Department, National Audubon Society, 1000 Fifth Ave., New York 28, N. Y.

IF YOU ARE GOING TO MATTAMUSKEET—You might be interested in getting a copy of an attractive bulletin, *Number 4, Conservation in Action Series*, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which maps and describes the Mattamuskeet, Pea Island, and Swan Quarter Wildlife Refuges. Drop a card with your request to: Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C.

ARTICLES BY CAROLINA BIRD CLUB MEMBERS IN NATIONAL MAGAZINES: In the November issue of *Nature Magazine* (vol. 41, no. 9, p. 457-ff), Mrs. Charlotte Hilton Green, Raleigh, N. C., has an interesting article, with plenty of pictures, on "Gaddy's Geese," which tells about Mr. and Mrs. Lockhart Gaddy's goose pond near Ansonville, N. C. . . . The October issue of *The Auk* (vol. 65, p. 584-597), journal published by The American Ornithologists Union, carries an article "The Bird Migration Controversy," by Howard T. Odum, Carolina Bird Club member now residing at New Haven, Conn.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS AT CHARLOTTE, N. C.: The Charlotte Children's Nature Museum is sponsoring a series of the National Audubon Society's lecture-entertainments for the 1948-1949 season, including the following programs: Roger Tory Peterson, "The Riddle of Migration," Tuesday, Nov. 30; Howard L. Orians, "Lakelore," Wednesday, Jan. 19; Tom and Arlene Hadley, "Happy Valley," Monday, March 21. These programs will be presented at 8:00 p.m., probably at Charlotte Central High School. There will also be two afternoon lectures exclusively for children who are members of the Children's Nature Museum.

"WILDLIFE IN NORTH CAROLINA,"—the official publication of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Raleigh, is published monthly in attractive form, and may be secured for 50c a year, or one dollar for two years, from: Wildlife Resources Commission, Box 2919, Raleigh, N. C. North Carolina members of the Carolina Bird Club who have followed for the past four years the separation of "Game and Inland Fisheries" from the N. C. Dept. of Conservation and Development, and the formation of the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission, with the hope of more efficient results, will do well to subscribe for "Wildlife in North Carolina," and see that other North Carolinians besides hunters and fishermen are considered in

the plans of the Wildlife Resources Commission, even if the hunters and fishermen do "pay the bill" with fishing and hunting licenses and with federal refunds to North Carolina from taxes on sporting equipment and materials.

MRS HENRY PIKE GAINS RECOGNITION FOR BIRD WORK: Mrs. Henry Pike, Chairman of the Bird Committee of the Siler City Garden Club, has gained national recognition for her bird work, having received commendation from the Chairman of the National Council of State Garden Clubs. This was particularly in recognition of the considerable variety of fine work which she did with the school children of Siler City during 1947.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS AT CHAPEL HILL, N. C.: The Chapel Hill Bird Club is sponsoring another series in the Audubon Screen tours for the 1948-1949 season and have the following excellent list of lecture-entertainers scheduled: Roger Tory Peterson, "The Riddle of Migration," Monday, Nov. 29; Howard Orians, "Lakelore," Thursday, Jan. 20; Karl Maslowski, "Saguaro Land," Thursday, Feb. 24; Tom and Arlene Hadley, "Happy Valley," Tuesday, Mar. 22; and Telford Work, "Bits of Land Along the Coast," Thursday, Apr. 14. All tours are scheduled for the Pick Theatre, at 8:00 p.m., and season tickets for adults are \$2.40 including tax.

ATTENTION, N. C. HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHERS: Four projects are sponsored by the North Carolina Academy of Science for the benefit of students of North Carolina High Schools: (1) *The Academy Award*, prizes of \$20, \$10, and \$5 for meritorious project presented by a student or group of students or club; (2) *Biological Exhibits Award*, cash prizes of \$20, \$15, and \$5, provided by the Carolina Biological Supply Company, are offered for the most meritorious exhibits of preserved specimens of plants and animals, including plants and animals preserved in various fluids, microscopic slide mounts, dried preserved specimens as mounted plant materials, or any other method used in preservation of biological specimens for study or display; (3) *Forestry Essay*, cash awards of \$20, \$10, and \$5, are offered for meritorious essays in the field of forestry, the funds provided by the North Carolina Forestry Association; (4) *Ornithology Essay*, a \$20 cash award, offered by Mrs. Edwin O Clarkson, and two copies of "Birds of North Carolina," offered by the N. C. State Museum, for meritorious essays on birds. The exhibits are to be displayed at the N. C. Academy of Science meeting next spring, and the essays must be in the hands of the judges before the Academy meeting. Regulations regarding these projects, together with suggestions and blank certificates for application may be secured by writing to: High School Committee of the North Carolina Academy of Science, Dr. Archie D. Shaftesbury, Chairman, Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, N. C. North Carolina members of the Carolina Bird Club are requested to call this to the attention of their high school science teachers.

JUNIOR AUDUBON CLUBS: School teachers and others in the Carolinas interested in the organization of Junior Audubon Clubs, if you are not already familiar with the excellent material provided by the National Audubon Society, should by all means make use of the aids—color plates of birds, outline drawings, illustrated bird leaflets, membership tags, and the Junior Audubon Magazine, *News on the Wing*, which is published four times a year and contains information on bird houses, feeders, bird calendars, field trips, and club and assembly programs. The junior clubs are organized on an international scale, including Canada, United States, and Mexico, and so must be supplemented by material of state and local interest, but teachers of elementary grades, and junior and senior high schools will find it very valuable. North Carolina had over 7,000 paid Junior Audubon members during the past year. Ten or more students and an adult advisor constitute a Junior Audubon Club, and

the annual dues are ten cents a member. Clubs renewing from year to year receive different material each year. Proper application must be made to the National Audubon Society. Teachers who are interested should mail a card or letter to the National Audubon Society, 1000 Fifth Ave., New York 28, N. Y., with a request for application and for the folder, "Let's Form a Junior Audubon Club." And how about passing this information along to your friends who might be interested.

INFORMATION CIRCULARS: In addition to many other services rendered by the North Carolina State Museum, the Museum, by means of printed and mimeographed circulars, provides information on such popular subjects as: Meteorites—"Pieces of Stars"; North Carolina Gold; North Carolina Gem Stones; Fossil Whales in Eastern North Carolina; Mastodons and Mastodons in Eastern N. C.; Native Poisonous Plants; Important Honey Plants of N. C.; Insects and Entomology; Raising Earthworms; The Black Widow Spider; Aquaria and Terraria; Archaeology in N. C.; Some Common Harmless Snakes of N. C.; Tanning Snake and Other Small Skins; Some Common N. C. Birds for November; Some Common Spring and Summer Birds; Bird Feeding Stations; To Make a Bird Calendar; Bird Banding; Making a Bird Skin; The Cardinal—Our State Bird; O'possums; Bats—Flying Mammals; and The White-tail Deer—Game and Trophy. These are free, and the museum requests that you ask only for those, and in numbers you actually need. Among other publications that may be secured from the museum at cost are: "Birds of North Carolina," 450 pages, illustrated, \$3.50; Reptiles of North Carolina, 32 pages, 50c; "Poisonous Snakes of Eastern U. S. and First Aid Guide," well illustrated, 10c; "Common Forest Trees of North Carolina," 87 pages, illustrated, 10c; "Important Food and Game Fishes of North Carolina," 54 pages, well illustrated, 25c. Address North Carolina State Museum, Raleigh, N. C.



Margaret E. Watson

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ENJOYED WORK AT MAINE CAMP: Miss Margaret E. Watson, holder of the Carolina Bird Club's 1948 scholarship to the National Audubon Society's Nature Camp at Medomak, Maine, states: "My enthusiasm for the Audubon Nature Camp is limitless. Those were wonderful days in Maine and I am very grateful to the Carolina Bird Club for the opportunity of being there. Camp life itself is a grand vacation. The spruce and pine forests in combination with the sea make the camp a perfect spot. The instruction is of inestimable value. It is a rare privilege to know such outstanding naturalists. Mrs. Margaret Wall's classes in nature activity were very helpful to me both in my teaching and my work as a Girl Scout Leader. My

pupils are now working on several nature projects." Miss Watson, whose home is in Elm City, N. C., is now teaching at the State School for the Blind, in Raleigh. She was graduated from Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, with a major in history, and several electives in science, which included field trips over Guilford County with Earl Hall's botany classes. Nature subjects were also the main interest for a summer session at Appalachian State Teachers' College. Miss Watson has taught at Black Creek, Elm City, and Roanoke Rapids, and among other summer work she has been counselor at 4-H and Girl Scout Camps. For several years she has been a Girl Scout Leader, serving at Roanoke Rapids and Raleigh, and just before going to the Maine nature camp this summer she was sent by the Raleigh Girl Scout Council to a conference for Leaders of Handicapped Troops, at Camp Edith Macy, Pleasantville, N. Y.

Do You Have a New Membership Card?

The 1949 membership cards are white, with the printing superimposed on a light blue outline map of North Carolina and South Carolina. Unless you have one of these cards, your subscription will expire January 1st. Of course, the Carolina Bird Club Treasurer, Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, 6 Springdale Court, Greensboro, N. C., will be sending you a bill soon, *BUT* we are making the suggestion that we hope you can find it convenient to remit your dues at once so as to save a lot of late holiday work for your Treasurer. Thank you for considering this suggestion.

Regular Membership	\$ 1.00	Contributing Membership ...	\$ 25.00
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